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CHIEF EDITOR:
JIAN RONG
NEWS EDITOR:
YU SHANSHAN
DESIGNER:DENG NING



Fine Japanese dining

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BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



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Explore the Dragon Gorge

With temperatures 6 C lower than the city's center, Beijing's "Little Three Gorges" is a great place to escape the heat.



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The '80s look is back

Electro is back, and with it a wild mix of fluorescent clothing and makeup.

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Central bank exposes officials' money laundering tricks

By Xinji Letu

When officials turn bad, they use eight channels to move all their assets abroad, the People's Bank of China said Monday.

The report by its Money Laundering Monitoring and Analysis Center highlighted cases of cash smuggling, exchange in current accounts, foreign investments and credit card abuse.

It said an estimated 16,000 to 18,000 officials and high-ranked executives of state-owned enterprises have fled the country taking with them their ill-gotten funds – some 800 billion yuan.

"It is staggering in terms of both the number of corrupt officials fleeing abroad and the amount of money that is involved. It is far more than I had ever imagined," said Wang Yukai, a professor at the Chinese Academy of Governance.

"This just shows that corruption has been far from curbed in spite of the 'anti-corruption' campaigns of the last several years."

The report, a first for the bank, focuses on the mecha-

nisms by which these officials get their money abroad.

The bank said officials relied on cash smuggling, alternative remittance systems, hiding bank transfers with fraudulent receipts, foreign investment, credit card abuse, the transfer of assets to offshore financial centers, direct reception from abroad and transfer via "special persons."

The report paints a sad picture of corruption.

According to the report, the most wanted officials are being sheltered in the US, Canada, Australia and the Netherlands. Officials wanted for petty corruption tend to flee instead to Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, Mongolia and Russia.

"As the report says, most of these money laundering cases are carefully planned. The officials settle their families abroad first, and then begin transferring their ill-gotten assets with the aid of their children or spouse," Wang said.

The report called on the People's Bank to begin mon-

itoring sensitive sectors such as financial institutions, state-owned enterprises that still hold monopolies, land management and construction.

"The report shows that nothing effective is being done to stop these officials from moving their money abroad. Part of that has to do with a huge loophole in how we regulate official overseas travel," Wang said.

"Even if we have institutions with names like the 'Money Laundering Monitoring and Analysis Center,' there's very little we can do about such corruption without running afoul of the international community in extradition proceedings."

In order to better monitor money laundering, the bank suggested creating an information-sharing mechanism between relevant departments. The bank could collect and share data with foreign intelligence agencies to help catch officials in the early stages of their flight.

"Corruption must be battled at an institutional level," Wang said.

Where the Bank wants to watch

Places of Flight	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Neighboring countries: Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, Mongolia and Russia. 2. Developed countries: the US, Canada, Australia and the Netherlands. 3. Countries with lax corruption enforcement or no extradition: those in Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe, as well as Fiji and Ecuador. 4. Major transfer hubs: Hong Kong and Macao. 5. Offshore financial centers: the British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Samoa and Bermuda.
Sensitive Sectors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finance 2. State-owned monopolies 3. Transportation, land management and construction 4. Departments of taxation, trade and investment
Risk Groups	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Officials being investigated by the People's Procuratorate, the Ministry of Supervision or the Ministry of Public Security 2. Party leaders and cadres at all level and their relatives 3. Leaders, department managers and accountants in sensitive sectors and their relatives 4. High-level managers at state-owned enterprises and institutions and their relatives
Consumption Patterns	Overseas consumption and cash conducted using the China Union Pay network

Beijing-Shanghai high-speed to open next month

By Yao Weijie

The Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway, a national milestone project, is set to open before July 1.

Developed with a total investment of 220.9 billion yuan, the Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway broke ground on April 18, 2008. Its 1,318-kilometer length crosses seven provinces to connect Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shandong, Anhui, Jiangsu and Shanghai.

It promises to shorten the travel time between Beijing and Shanghai to no more than five hours, down from a current 10 hours.

"It is not only the longest high-speed railway in the world, but also the most expensive construction project since the founding of the People's Republic of China," said Hu Yadong, vice minister of China's ministry of Railways, at a Monday press conference. The line carries 90 pairs of trains every day, including 63 pairs that run at 300 kilometers per hour, which can reach the terminal in 4 hours and 48 minutes, and 27 pairs that travel at 250 kilometers per hour, which can reach the terminal in 7 hours and 56 minutes.

"Actually, 350 kilometers per hour is the technical maximum speed. The actual speeds average between 250 to 300 kilometers per hour, and are adjusted for safety and power consumption," Hu said. The new line has a monitoring system to track geological hazards. The trains will be slowed or halted depending on external conditions, said Sun Zhang, professor of Institute of



The Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway is the longest in the world.

railway and urban rail transport of Tongji University.

The trains will be subject to a four-hour safety inspection every 10 days to ensure safety, He said.

Tickets for the fastest train will cost between 555 and 1,750 yuan depending on seating; for the slower train, tickets will cost between 410 and 650 yuan, Hu said.

Many people have complained that the tickets are too expensive.

However, when compared to the cost of foreign high speed rails, China's new line appears to be a great value.

The TGV of France charges 1.2 yuan per kilometer to go from Paris to Marseille; the Berlin-Frankfurt line in Germany costs 1.9 yuan per kilometer; Japan's Shinkansen train connecting Tokyo and Nagoya costs 1.6 yuan per kilometer. The Beijing-

Shanghai line works out to about 0.42 yuan per kilometer.

"This price will shake up the airlines," Sun said. "When the Eurostar launched in 1994, 76 percent of the passengers picked high-speed rail for traveling from London to Paris."

But a spokesperson for Hainan Airlines denied feeling any pressure.

"We would like to integrate

with the new line so that passengers can have access to seamless transfers between high-speed rails and air transportation," said Xia Haibin, Hainan Airlines spokesperson.

The airline has already begun work on one such project. Passengers are allowed to book rail tickets all over the country when purchasing air tickets from Hainan Airlines.

Knockoff websites rise up against corruption

By Zhang Dongya

Six Chinese copies of the popular Indian website I Paid A Bribe (ipaidabribe.com) opened last week to encourage people across the nation to air their encounters with corruption.

The clones first appeared after local media reported on June 8 about the Indian website, which has become an effective weapon in the country's battle against corruption.

The first was "I Made a Bribe" (ibrabri.com), but more appeared as more media outlets carried the story during the next several days. Some popular Web forums also created sections for bribery exposure.

But most of these websites are currently operating illegally. None has an Internet Content Provider (ICP) number, which is



The website of ipaidabribe.com

required of all websites which do business in China.

"After reading about the Indian website, I saw a lot of Chinese people were disappointed with the present situation," said Cherhom, founder of

the ibrabri.com.

"I was sad and angry about our nation's notorious reputation for corruption. That's why I created the Chinese website and will do my best to run it."

During its first week online, ibrabri.com attracted more than 1 million people, 4,000 of whom registered as members.

The website allows users to post their experiences of seeing tax officials, educators, doctors and engineers demand bribes for their services. Most posts are made from a pseudonym, though some have posted verifiable information about themselves and the people who demanded bribes.

Most of the websites are run by people with a passion for beating corruption. ibrabri.com is run by a team of 30 volunteers, and is look-

ing for more helpers.

"We plan to split up the kinds of bribery into commercial bribery, government corruption and foreign bribery," Cherhom said.

Commercial bribery will cover incidents of bribery that occur online, in hospitals or in dining establishments; government bribery will focus on provincial-level officials; foreign bribery will report cases that occur abroad in Russia, Canada, Japan and Australia.

Cherhom is trying to promote an alliance between all similar websites and a trimmed-down version of the website for use on mobile browsers.

Regarding ICP certifications, a similar website Anti-Bribery League said it is afraid to apply. The applica-

tion procedure to obtain an ICP number involved giving out extensive personal information, which could be used by corrupt officials for reprisal attacks.

But Cherhom said ibrabri.com is applying for an ICP number, and is optimistic about its ability to get one.

He said he has hired a lawyer in Sichuan Province to protect him from reprisals, and that he and the other volunteers are organizing a "safety group" of people willing to aid the volunteers in finding job opportunities, financial support and offshore havens.

Most websites said it is not possible to verify everything that users report. They said they encourage people to enter real information so it can be useful to police investigators.

29 rescued infants still homeless

By Yao Weijie

Most people see rescue as the end of a struggle. For the 29 victims of a series of infant abductions in Shandong Province, it was only the beginning.

One year after the case closed, the infants have yet to be reunited with their biological parents.

The Ministry of Public Security learned last year that the children had been sold to families in Shandong Province. The rescue was conducted by local police in Liaocheng.

But for the last year, the police have been unable to send any of the children home – mostly because their parents don't want to be found. Police said that the children's biological parents, all of whom live in the provinces of Yunnan, Sichuan and Guizhou, sold them for cash.

Baby girls were sold for 20,000 yuan and baby boys for 40,000.

For want of other options, the Liaocheng police department has returned the children to the families that purchased them. The parents were required to sign agreements saying they will not mistreat the children and will return them if a biological parent comes forwards.

"The families that bought children will treat them well. They certainly provide a better child-rearing environment than a state-run orphanage," an officer told the *Shandong Business Daily*.

But many online have said they are concerned the police department's decision, while reasonable, legitimizes human trafficking – something that is supposed to be a serious crime.

"According to the law, the Liaocheng police were right not to punish the buyers," said Sheng, a professor at Nankai University's School of Law.

"The criminal law code requires

that anyone who buys a woman or child shall face a prison sentence of no more than three years, but it waives the penalty in cases where the child was not maltreated or the police were not obstructed in their rescue work."

While there is no legal precedent for the agreement the police signed with the buyers, the reality is that state care facilities are already underfunded and overburdened by unwanted children.

"Many civil administration departments take in disabled, homeless and abandoned infants, but never ones that have been trafficked," Li said. The best legal option is to formalize the adoption of the children. But the current law governing adoptions sets strict limits on the families who are allowed to adopt.

Adopting parents are required to be childless and no younger than 35. Even if the biological parents agree to an adoption, many of the families may have their applications rejected by relevant government departments – especially those which already have a girl.

Liaocheng police are not alone in facing this problem. Among 63 infants who were rescued by Kunming police, 26 had to be sent back to their buyers in Jinjiang, Fujian Province; another 10 were taken in by an orphanage in Kunming in 2003.

As a temporary solution, the Ministry of Public Security has ordered that police who recover trafficked children can force the buyers to support the child until a biological parent is located.

"The bureau's decision to return children to families of which they are not a member seems odd, but their reasoning is sound. More importantly, it's the best choice for the child's development," Li said.

Red songs over the city



CFP Photo

The nation is experiencing red fever as it prepares for the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Communist Party, which took place on July 1, 1921.

A group of elderly residents is meeting each week as a team to practice singing red songs at Jingshan Park. "We share a passion for these songs. They are the touchstones of our generation," one 59-year-old resident said. "Singing red songs is our way to express our love for the country and our positive attitude toward life," she said.

(By Han Manman)



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Love hurts

Will Chinese people's love curb the global recovery?

Do young Chinese people's love affairs have anything to do with the world economy? The Spanish believe so. A major newspaper in Spain – *El Mundo* – warned in its latest report that the difficulties of Chinese in finding a partner may cast a shadow over the world's economy.

The reason is simple: young Chinese are spending less and saving money to attract a potential wife.

When the global economy stalled, all eyes fell on Chinese consumers. But many young bachelors chose to save their money instead of injecting it back into the economy because they needed wealth to find a girlfriend, *El Mundo* reported.

Tradition has it that a bachelor seeking marriage must first own a home, which nowadays costs lots of money.

This has forced many to slash their spending. But if there is no consumption in the world's fastest growing market, the global economy may stagnate, the Spanish newspaper reported.

The report cited Yang Jiahe, 20, a migrant worker in Beijing who sacrificed comfort in order to buy an apartment for a desired marriage.

Yang lived in a huge apartment complex in Beijing. But to get to his room, he does not climb the stairs. Instead, he walks down to a windowless basement.

The living space was not designed for long-term habitation. Yang's room is just large enough to accommodate a single bed, with a small desk next to it.

But Yang clearly can afford a better room with his salary. The lease on the shelter costs only 10 percent of his income earned from his job of selling cell phones in the Zhongguancun area.

"But now I'm in Beijing, the first thing I will do is to work and save money," he told *El Mundo*.

Yang has two dreams: one is to buy an apartment, the other is to find a good wife.

"If I do not have my own home, no decent girl would ever consider marrying me," he said.

Many other young Chinese are taking similar actions, *El Mundo* reported.

The report believes the link between homes and love is the key reason why more Chinese are choosing to save their money. It's not just a problem for young Chinese singles, but for the entire global economy.

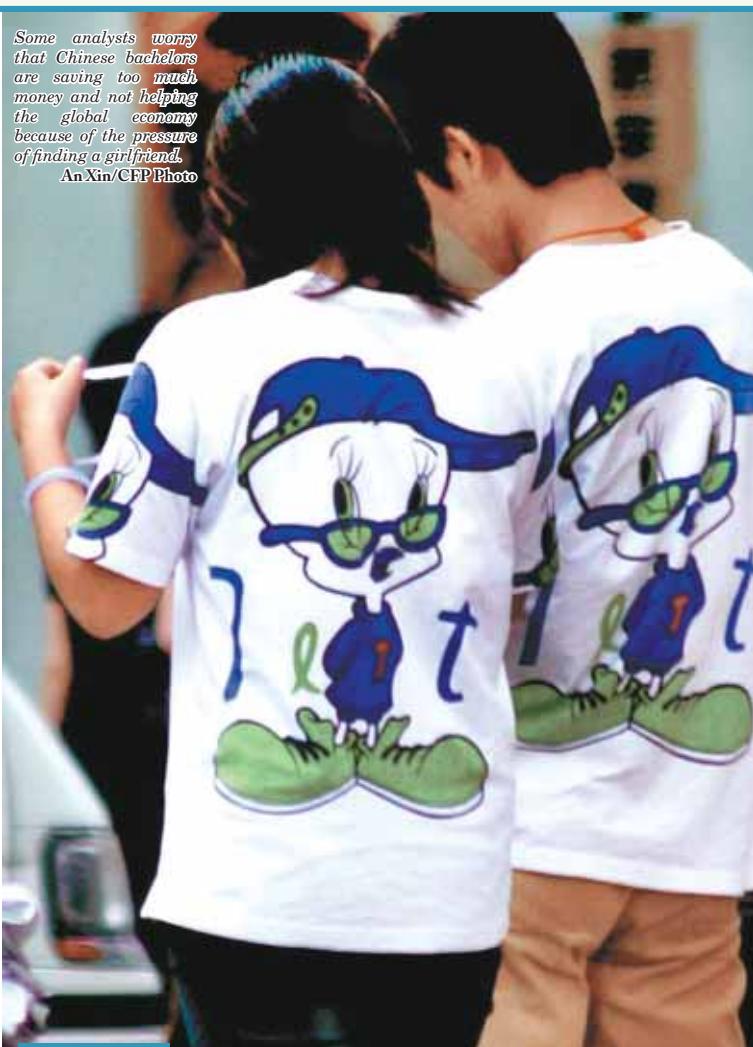
The Chinese save more than one third of their income, a far greater percentage than the average American, who only keeps 5 percent of his or her money.

The report urged China to increase domestic demand and the government to persuade its citizens to save less and spend more.

(Agencies)

Some analysts worry that Chinese bachelors are saving too much money and not helping the global economy because of the pressure of finding a girlfriend.

An Xin/CFP Photo



The third eye

Can China save the world by consuming more?

By Huang Daohen

Can China save the world's economy if it consumes more? "No," said Kang Yan, vice president and senior analyst with Roland Berger China, "but it can certainly help."

Kang said it has been a long time since the world's business and political leaders made efforts to get the nation to save the global economy. Since the global financial crisis in 2009, the international pressure for the country has intensified.

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(Agencies)

not only for its own market but for the global system as well.

"China is a shining light, but not yet the world's savior," Kang said.

Kang said the most serious problem for China now is the recent price hikes. Statistics released this week show that the country's consumer price index (CPI), an indicator of inflation, hit 5.5 percent in May, up 0.1 percentage points from April.

The government raised bank reserve requirements a fifth time early this month to curb the price hike. But experts believe such measures won't be instantly effective.

Kang said inflation can be another reason why Chinese are spending less now.

But even if they start spending, it would bring another serious issue: speculation may occur in the real estate, capital and commodities markets.

Instead of encouraging domestic consumption, Kang said letting money flow out would be a way to battle the price hike as well as help the world recovery.

Current inflation is partly due to excess liquidity in the market, Kang said.

But while there is apparently too much liquidity, the question is how to let excess money out. Kang said the international stock board set to open in Shanghai is a good way.

"We have to let more individuals tap the international market," he said.

Weekly highlights

Nuclear reactors safe

(AP) – The country's nuclear regulators have given the country's reactors a clean bill of health following inspections ordered after the disaster at Japan's tsunami-struck Fukushima Dai-ichi facility.

Inspections have been completed on all 13 of the nation's currently operating reactors in a process very similar to those in place in Europe and the US, Vice Environment Minister Li Ganjie said in a statement posted on the ministry's website Wednesday.

Further safety reviews of 28 reactors now under construction should be completed by October, Li said.

Li has called for a major overhaul of China's nuclear oversight in the wake of Japan's disaster, though there have been no signs that China plans to diverge from its ambitious program to develop the industry.

Maradona sues

(AFP) – Argentine soccer icon Diego Maradona is suing popular Chinese Web portal Sina and an Internet company for using his name and image to promote an online game, the *Global Times* reported Wednesday.

Maradona is seeking 20 million yuan in compensation from Sina and The9 Limited, which designed the game *Winning Goal*, it quoted an official from the Beijing No. 1 Intermediate Court as saying.

"The case was accepted yesterday (Monday)," said Chen Shi, a spokesman for the court.

Officials at the court in the Chinese capital would not respond to AFP requests for comment and calls to them went unanswered.

A Sina spokeswoman who declined to be named said the matter "is a legal procedure. We cannot comment."

The9 and Sina launched the game last June claiming Maradona was a celebrity spokesman, the report said.

But Maradona says he never gave permission to the Chinese companies to use his image, Xinhua News Agency reported earlier this month, citing a statement from the soccer legend.

Three convicted for iPad2 design theft

(AFP) – A court in south China has jailed three people for stealing the design to Apple's iPad2 tablet computer and using it to manufacture counterfeits.

The theft from a plant run by Foxconn, a contract electronics manufacturer, in Guangdong Province late last year resulted in fake iPad2s being sold in China before Apple's official launch of the product, the *Guangzhou Daily* said.

Rampant piracy of everything from consumer electronics to luxury handbags and apparel have caused friction between China and its trade partners, leading to billions of dollars in losses annually to intellectual property theft.

A court in Shenzhen last week sentenced Xiao Chengsong, the legal agent of Maita Electronics, to 18 months in prison and fined him 150,000 yuan for buying the design from two Foxconn workers, the report said.

Xiao allegedly paid 200,000 yuan for the iPad2 design, it said.

Foxconn employee Lin Kecheng was sentenced to 14 months and fined 100,000 yuan, while another worker identified as Hou Pengna was given a two-year sentence, suspended for one year and fined 30,000 yuan, it said.

All three were convicted of the crime of violating commercial secrets, it said.

Million-dollar lunch

Investors target relationship and prestige at the Buffett feast

By Huang Daohen

Who will have the lunch with Warren Buffett this year? Though the name is unknown, many suggest the bidder, who paid about \$2.63 million for the three-hour lunch at New York's Smith & Wollensky steakhouse, is likely from China.

For the vast majority of the world, this is an enormous amount of money, but for billionaire investors, it's a bargain.

For China's tycoons, money is easy to come by. Bragging rights and a genuine learning experience are much less so.



This year's charity auction for a lunch with Warren Buffett (pictured) raised a record-setting \$2.63 million.

CFP Photo

A disappointing bid

Samuel Yang felt a bit disappointed about the online auction for this year's lunch with legendary investor Warren Buffett.

To the 28-year-old young investor and analyst at a local securities firm, the annual eBay bid is among the biggest things of the year in the financial field. Yang followed the eBay auction starting June 5, though he never became a bidder.

But the online bidding war failed many financial fans like Yang – the interest was much lower this year. Only two bidders vied for the lunch with their total eight bids in the eBay auction.

Last year, nine bidders placed a total of 77 bids for the lunch.

In the end, one of the anonymous bidders offered a record \$2.63 million.

Bloomberg said the auction was still shy of the record when it closed last Friday night at \$2,345,678. However, the bidder increased his offer in the last minutes to beat the old record by \$100.

Though the organizer didn't release the identity of the winner, there was plenty of speculation that the top bid came from China, since the winner's bids were placed during Asia's daytime.

Analysts at eBay said they spotted a Chinese wordplay behind the online bids.

Among the eight bids are numbers like \$2,000,011 and \$1,000,011; the last two digits sound like a homonym for "Want! Want!" in Chinese.

Chinese people are fond of word plays involving numbers: "nine nine" sounds similar to the Chinese word for "forever," while "eight" sounds like "riches."

Is it worth it?

Whether or not the winning bidder is from China, a \$2-million lunch is never without controversy.

An online survey conducted on Tencent QQ's Web portal found more than half the respondents opposed the idea of Chinese

investors bidding for the lunch.

They said that instead of asking Buffett for investment advice, the country should cultivate its own legendary investor. The charity aspect of the lunch is also being overlooked as the public and media focus on the bid.

"It's all about money and publicity," a netizen named "Old Wang" said in an online post.

Wen Yijun, a senior analyst with Oriental Securities in Beijing, agreed. The winning bidder's willingness to set a record is proof, he said.

The move is seen as typical of a billionaire investor looking to promote himself or his business.

Wen said that many investors look at lunch with the investment god as a business strategy to present themselves and promote their business.

Spending millions for a steak lunch might seem an excessive, but combining Buffett and investment strategy is unique and always inspiring," he said.

The annual charity lunch is now in its eleventh year. This year's money will go to the Glide Foundation, a charity that provides social services to the poor and homeless in San Francisco.

Food for thought

Two Chinese business tycoons attended previous Warren Buffett auction lunches and called the experience informative and inspiring.

Duan Yongping, a businessman in the appliance industry, attended Buffett's charity lunch twice. The 50-year-old executive paid \$620,100 for the lunch in 2006. In 2008, he joined with Zhao Danyang, a hedge fund manager, to place a top bid.

Duan said the lunch includes eight people, and that the winner would share a table with Buffet for three hours. The bidder can ask any question during the lunch, from investment advice to Buffet's

feelings toward China.

Zhao, 38, told media that he talked with Buffett about China's economy, the financial crisis, foreign exchange rates and company management.

"I learned that when I can't solve problems, it's not because I'm not smart enough, but because I haven't experienced enough," Zhao said after attending 2008's Buffett lunch.

That may explain why millions of Buffett fans, including many young Chinese investors, flock to his hometown of Omaha every year.

Wen, from Oriental Securitas, said he could still recall when he attended a forum in 2008 in Omaha. People lined up for hours to hear Buffett give his opinions on finance, public policy and life.

The lunch is a superb opportunity to have an open talk with Buffett, especially for investors from emerging markets, Wen said. He agreed that the winner is probably Chinese, as China has had a large Buffett fan base for many years.

"Whether they're from China or elsewhere, a successful investor would want to seek guidance from the legendary investor about the problems they face," Wen said.

Wen said that when he attended one of Buffett's speeches, he was impressed by his unparalleled experience in making valuable choices in his investments. He said Buffett invests in what he knows and understands.

However, Wen, also a veteran investor, said he did not expect a three-hour lunch session to teach an investor how to make his fortune soar.

While experiences can be learned and taught, investment decisions should be made according to practical environments and conditions, Wen said.

"There is only one Warren Buffett, and he can't be cloned here in China," he said.

Weibo to launch English service

By Wei Xi

Sina Weibo may offer an English version of its service before the year is out, Xinhua News Agency reported.

While it is planning to tap the overseas market, Sina denied in a report by cnfina.com any intent to compete head-on against the microblogging giant Twitter.

Liu Qi, a spokesman for the tech company, told Xinhua last week that the English microblog would be a new service developed from the ground up to meet market demand.

Service would be geared to all overseas users rather than those from a specific country, a Sina spokesman said.

Since its founding in 2009, the number of Sina Weibo users has grown to more than 140 million. About 10 percent are located abroad. Sina expects its user base to swell to 200 million before the end of the year, Xinhua reported.

Weibo is the world's second most popular microblog after Twitter, which has 300 million registered users, Xinhua reported.

Cao Guowei, CEO of Sina.com, told cnfina.com that one of the reasons for Weibo's smaller user base is due to a language barrier: Twitter offers its services in nine languages while Weibo is only available in Chinese.

Cao said his company may seek for partners abroad to help develop the service in other locales.

"Weibo has had a very good momentum in China, and it would like to ride that to expand overseas," said Wang Shiyu, a journalism and communications professor at Beijing Foreign Studies University.

But Wang gave a dark forecast for Weibo's proposed English version.

He said the platform has a lot of problems to overcome with team building and forming its own cultural environment.

"What's worse, Weibo is at a technological disadvantage to Twitter," Wang said.

Reports on cnfina.com said that if Weibo wants to break into the overseas market, it will have to carefully consider how it plans to control and filter information.

The major advantages of Weibo, according to cnfina.com, lie in its unique functions, such as being able to leave blog-style replies as well as e-business and social contacts.

"The ability to attach pictures and videos and comment on a user's home page are some features unique to Weibo," Wang said.

Iain Shaw, subeditor of theBeijinger.com, is a regular Weibo user who said he often gets more replies to his Weibo posts than his tweets.

Shaw said an English-language version would be convenient for himself and other foreign users who want to microblog in China.

"As other people have pointed out, the English version of Weibo is probably – at least, initially – more about allowing foreign brands a more accessible channel for marketing to Chinese consumers. It's not a plan to displace Twitter as the choice of average overseas social media users," Shaw said.

He said he expects more foreigners in China to begin using Weibo.

"I think, regardless of language, that's already happening. But will millions of Twitter users switch to Weibo just because it's in English? I don't think so – not without a huge rebranding of Weibo," he said.

Peking Opera to change name to 'Jingju'

By Yao Weijie

The National Peking Opera Theater and Peking Opera Theater Company of Beijing will begin a joint initiative appealing for Peking Opera theaters around the country to change the English translation of their shows from Peking Opera to "Jingju," said Li Enjie, president of the National Peking Opera Theater.

A month ago, Peking Opera Theater Company of Beijing announced it will change its English name to Jingju Theater Company of Beijing.

"Peking Opera does not have the same connotations as 'jingju.' Many foreigners might mistake it with European opera," Li said.

The "ju" of Jingju is often translated as "opera," but it could have other meanings as well.

"The origin of 'Peking Opera' is specifically rooted in historical events. The influence of Chinese culture was not recognized at that time, so people began using Peking Opera. The performances and artistic features of jingju and opera are completely different," Li said.

The Peking Opera Theater Company understands it might take some time for "jingju" to catch on, so in the early-going the name will appear on publicity materials as: Jingju (Peking Opera) Theater Company of Peking.

"It is necessary to change Peking Opera to Jingju. Take Kabuki, for example. Japanese people call it Kabuki, not Tokyo Opera," said Sun Ping, a famous Peking Opera singer.

However, some netizens think this action is unnecessary, since "Peking Opera" has already been used for so many years.



Peking Opera or Jingju?

Wen Weiwei/CFP Photo

Comment

Make it Jingju

We should rename Peking Opera. Jingju has been gradually forgotten by many young people. If we continue to use Peking Opera, we will forget what jingju really is. We shouldn't continue using it just because we've gotten used to it.

— Zhang Teng, accountant

Doesn't matter much

It doesn't matter what we call it, we all know it means a traditional vocal musical art in China. However, considering the emotions of Chinese people, I think it's better to change it to jingju. Its source of origin is China, and Chinese people might prefer using pinyin for their own art forms.

— Nick Bowley, teacher

Keep the original

Peking Opera was established through long usage, so I think it's not necessary to change the name. If you're forcing people to change it to jingju, many people will continue to call it Peking Opera out of habit.

— John Spencer, freelancer

Meaningless dispute

It is meaningless to dispute this. After changing the name, people familiar with Peking Opera will be out of wits. What are our aims? To popularize the art or debate a superficial name change? What matters, substance or appearance?

— Feng Yiting, employee at foreign bank

Showing gratitude to one's parents

By Wei Xi

The approach of Father's Day has reminded many people of the debt they owe their parents.

The concept of respecting one's parents is universal, but the ways to show that respect and appreciation differs from coun-

try to country.

"While his parents are alive, the son may not leave far from home," is one rule from ancient China. "If the son for three years does not alter from the way of his father, he may be called filial," is another saying.

Obviously, many of these rules are anti-

quated. But the basic principle has remained unchanged: filial piety is a good thing.

Yet the way to express piety has drawn controversy.

On Mother's Day last month, Xinhua reported that second-year students of a Guangdong junior high kneeled before their parents,

and hundreds of primary school students in Jiangxi Province washed their mothers' feet.

Was this display too over the top?

As Sunday is Father's Day, netizens are debating what kind of act is appropriate in this day-and-age to show respect for one's parents.

Comment

Put parents in our hearts

In the old days, filial piety meant absolute obedience to one's father. In modern times, children should try their best to provide parents a happy life both economically and spiritually.

I am strongly against those eye-catching behaviors. I think many of these are mere formalities, done for show.

It's hard to say whether it is good or bad for the Chinese to observe Western occasions such as Father's Day, Mother's Day, Valentine's Day, etc. Actually, we Chinese already have similar festivals like Double Seven Festival, which is our Valentine's Day, and Double Ninth Festival, which demands the youngsters pay respect to the elderly.

The key thing is that we have our parents in hearts at all times.

— Qiu Bingjun, former Chinese cultural counselor

To show we care

We grown-ups are busy with our careers and have little time for our parents, but we should take time to go visit them and help them do some housework every now and then.

Father's Day and Mother's Day is a reminder for us to do that. As for the kneeling and washing of feet, I think these kinds of behaviors were quite normal in the past, and help remind us of the hardships our



Students kneel before their mothers to wash their feet as part of Mother's Day event.

parents endured while bringing us up.

— Guo Jinghua, supermarket employee

Treat every day as Mother's Day or Father's Day

We do not have such festivals as Father's Day or Mother's Day in my home country, and I don't think we need them.

In our culture, parents play a key role in a family. In the past, parents always had the last word for all the important issues, such as study or marriage, and now chil-

dren still need to discuss almost everything with their parents. Besides, a child should support his or her parents and take care of them until their last days.

Our religion tells us that if we could worship anyone other than God, it would be our parents.

I really laugh at Father's Day and Mother's Day, because it seems to me that you are only spending 24 hours being grateful to your parents. For us, we do it every day.

Although I'm far away from home, I call my parents almost every day.

— Hassan, Moroccan student in China

Mother's Day and Father's Day are needed

Whether as a child or an adult, you need to take time to show gratitude to your parents, no matter how busy you might be. The thing is, sometimes we get so caught up in our daily lives, or take our parents for granted, that many of the activities or customs we do for these holidays should be regular occurrences, not just saved for one day per year.

Usually, we send flowers and presents to parents on such festivals, or take them out for a dinner or nice activity if they like. Going to a concert or doing chores for them are also good ideas. And you certainly should visit them, or at least call them on that special day.

As for the Chinese students' kneeling to their parents or washing their feet: I think it's a wonderful idea. It's a grand gesture and certainly does show a son or daughter's gratitude.

However, I know my parents wouldn't agree to it — they would feel awkward. They would rather I do something more practical rather than symbolic for them, such as spending quality time with them.

— Glen Royce, elementary school teacher from the US

Grammy-winning musician makes guitar sing in Beijing

By Zhang Dongya

Renowned classical guitarist Sharon Isbin performed at the Central Conservatory of Music last weekend to promote her new album, *Guitar Passions: Sharon Isbin & Friends*, a follow-up to her 2010 Grammy-winning album *Journey to the New World*.

Isbin, acclaimed as "the pre-eminent guitarist of our time" by *Boston Magazine*, has performed as a soloist with more than 160 orchestras around the world.

Journey to the New World, released in 2009, won the Grammy for Best Instrumental Solo Performance. The recognition exposed her to the China market, according to the Sony Label.

Her new album, which will be available in August, has a definite Latin American flavor and focuses on her musical mentors.

"I'm paying tribute to my guitar heroes, who are artists I admire greatly and also heroes in their own realms," Isbin said. The artists include fellow guitar greats Steve Vai and Stanley Jordan.

The new album, like most of her recording projects, was created organically. The Brazilian percussionist Gaudencio Thiago de Mello, who grew up in the jungle, is the composer on the new album. He uses instruments made out of nat-

ural items such as bamboo, turtle shells and cocoon.

"I love to go to the jungle and the rainforest to see the animals and nature. To produce the album, we did a journey to the Amazon. And the music is very much describing the experiences of the jungle," Isbin said.

Isbin, 55, said she began playing guitar by accident. When she was nine years old, she took a family trip to Italy. Her older brother asked for guitar lessons and her parents found a teacher for him. However, her brother bowed out because he found out his hero, Elvis Presley, wasn't a real classical guitarist. Isbin volunteered to take her brother's place.

"I didn't know what a classical guitar was," she said.

Influenced by her father, a scientist, Isbin became interested in science, but her father pushed her to practice the guitar. She remembers him telling her, "You cannot launch model rockets until you put in an hour of practice on the guitar."

When Isbin won a competition in front of some 10,000 people in Minnesota when she was 14, she decided she would become a guitarist, not a scientist.

In 1995, Isbin got a call from an astronaut who told her he took

her CD *American Landscape* into the space shuttle and took a picture of it floating in the space shuttle with the earth looming outside the window.

"I got into space anyway," Isbin said.

Isbin has collaborated with Chinese musicians before, including Tan Dun, a well-known Chinese classical composer, who wrote a concerto for her. She performed the Tan concerto with Tang Muhan as conductor.

During her visit to Beijing, Isbin got an opportunity to play with several Chinese performers, including pipa player Yang Jing.

Isbin played some of Tan's solo music and Yang improvised to that. She also performed with Yang's husband, who plays a banhu, a Chinese instrument resembling a fiddle.

"It was really a wonderful experience playing guitar with a traditional Chinese musical instrument," Isbin said.

Asked why she doesn't sing, Isbin replied, "I try to make the guitar sound like a human voice in terms of lyricism and the shaping of line. And because this instrument has everything, it can sound like a singer depending on how you play. That's why I think I'm so attracted to the guitar."



Sharon Isbin

Photo by Mockingbird

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Indian embassy's school in Beijing shuts down

By Han Manman

Tuesday was the last day for international students at the Indian embassy's school in Beijing.

Principal Kyoko Somekawa Jaishankar, wife of the Indian ambassador to China, confirmed the news to *Beijing Today* and said the school held a farewell party for students and their parents on Tuesday.

She said the decision to close the school was made by the Indian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Located inside and operated

by the Indian embassy, the school offered an Indian-style curriculum to 100 students between the ages of 4 and 11 from 36 different countries. Instruction was in English. Chinese classes were part of the curriculum, and extracurricular activities included music, tennis and tai chi.

Times of India quoted ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar as saying that the school was set up 30 years ago when there were not enough schools for expats.

But Beijing has grown into an international city with many education options. There were very few children of Indian officials or the larger Indian community studying in the school, the ambassador said.

The decision to close the school still affected many Indian parents whose kids were getting a good education at affordable prices.

According to *Times of India*, many Indian parents said the decision was bound to affect those who work for companies

that refuse to reimburse the high cost of schooling, which is usually higher than \$1,500 (9,700 yuan) a month.

"It would make Beijing a less attractive posting. I may have to send my child to India as I cannot afford the fees of international schools," a parent told the newspaper. "We requested the embassy to close one class each year so that our educational plans are not disturbed. The parents raised this issue during the meeting with the ambassador,

but it was rejected."

The Indian school only charged \$200 (1,300 yuan) a month. With the possible exception of the Pakistani school, the Indian school was probably the cheapest in the city, according to an employee at the Pakistani embassy school.

According to her, some parents plan to send their children to the Pakistani school. She said the Pakistani school now has around 400 students, most of whom are from South Asian countries.

US embassy tightens security, says no to cell phones, bags

By Han Manman

Starting this past Monday, visa applicants have not been allowed to bring electronic devices or bags of any kind into the US embassy in Beijing.

The embassy previously had a bag storage place inside the building for visa applicants. Richard Buangan, spokesman for the US embassy, said that since more applicants have been applying for visas – the number has surpassed 2,000 a day – the embassy needs to take measures to speed up their security.

"The new rule will enable a faster and more efficient experience for everyone. Our security staff will no longer be able to keep bags and cell phones while the visitor is inside applying for a visa," Buangan said.

An embassy security guard on duty repeatedly informed visa applicants of the new rule on Wednesday morning.

Many peddlers see this change of policy as a good opportunity to earn some money by starting a "bag watch" business outside the embassy.

"Do you want to store your bag?" an old man asked one applicant who was lining up before the embassy gate. "The embassy will not let you in if you take it. No matter big or small, you just give me 10 yuan."

"I've already helped 20 applicants with their bags," the old man said.



Locals have started informal bag storage businesses outside the US embassy.

CFP Photo

Many flower shops opposite the embassy were also vying for the business, with vendors walking across the street and advertising their spaces. One owner said he'll charge 10 yuan for a common bag and 20 yuan for a computer bag.

An embassy security guard said it's safer and cheaper for

applicants to keep their bags in a nearby study abroad service and consulting center. There are three to four such centers that can keep bags for 5 yuan.

Buangan said this will be a permanent rule for the US embassy in Beijing.

The said the US embassy visa department usually has its

busiest months from May to September.

"In May, we processed 56 percent more cases than the same month last year. This past May was our busiest month on record, ever," he said. "The summer months are expected to be even busier."

To avoid unnecessary

waiting, he recommends visitors leave cell phones, electronics, bags and other large items at home.

"Besides your passport and visa application materials, you should only carry small, necessary items such as pens, money and identification cards," he said.

Movie celebrates 40 years of Sino-Austria diplomatic relations

By Yao Weijie

The film *The Red Thread* was shown by the Austrian embassy in Beijing last week to celebrate 40 years of Austria-China diplomatic relations.

Afterwards, there was a book-launch event for the newest edition of *Made in Austria*, a yearbook for Austrian

businesses in China.

The Red Thread is a love story featuring three generations and their connection with Austria, metaphorically illustrated by a red thread. In China, a strand of red thread denotes the connection between two people who are destined for one another.

"It was a much anticipated movie," said Oskar Andesner, commercial counselor of the Austrian embassy. "It will be released simultaneously nationwide in the future."

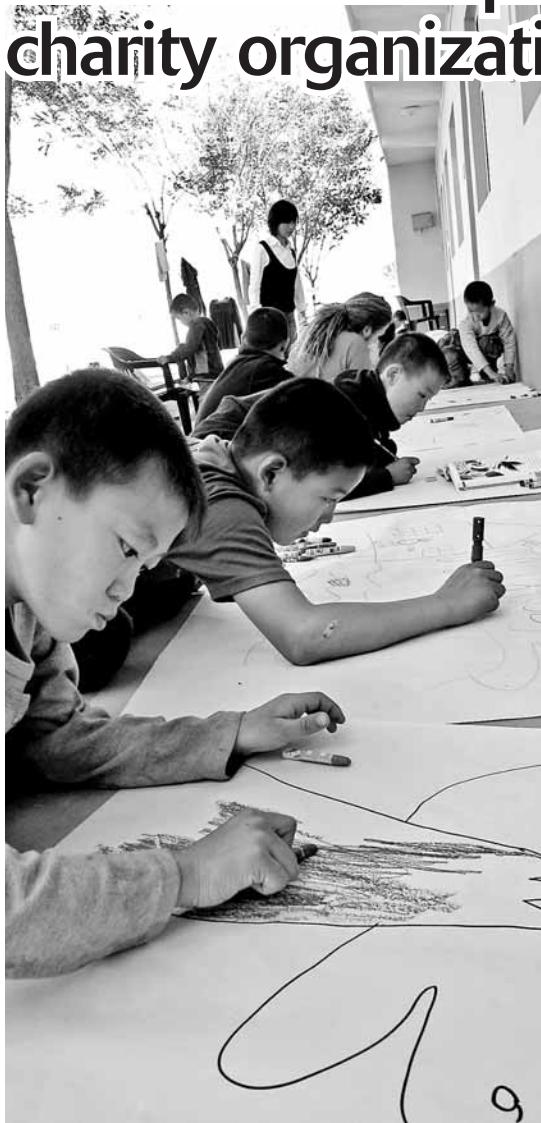
The movie was produced by the American director Victor Muñoz, who himself has special relations to Austria.



The Austrian embassy launches a yearbook for Austrian business in China.

Photo provided by Austrian embassy

Local event helps international charity organization for children



Among other initiatives, Morning Tears supports children's villages in Shaanxi Province.
Photo provided by Morning Tears

By Wei Xi

Last Saturday, the international charity organization Morning Tears held its fifth Charity BBQ and Fancy Fair in the Belgium embassy, attracting more than 250 guests.

Morning Tears was founded in 1999 to help children whose parents have been sent to prison. It has expanded over the years to also help children who have been abused or neglected, and those who were not registered at birth and therefore have few legal rights.

"The idea of helping children whose parents are imprisoned was first raised by four Chinese judges in 2008," said Koen Sevenants, general director of Morning Tears. "They put some money into the program but found it hard to keep it running, so we took it over."

Morning Tears is active in several countries, including Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands and the US. At the moment, it is helping more than 900 children around the world, including about 200 children in China between the ages of 6 and 18.

Besides providing children with basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter and schooling, Morning Tears also trains people who take care of the children and teaches governmental agencies and individuals about how to help vulnerable and traumatized children.

The organization's center is in Zhenzhou, Henan Province, with supporting two children's villages in Xi'an and Sanyuan, Shaanxi Province.

"Our children live in the villages and are taken care of by our special caregivers," said Koen. "We also have psychological counselors who give guidance for children."

Ange Moray, program support and coordinator of Morning Tears, said many children do not understand what happened to their parents and face discrimination in society, so part of the staff's job is to explain to the children what happened and that it isn't their fault.

The staffers are mostly volunteers. About 95 percent of the organization's funding comes from social groups, schools and chambers of commerce.

Family reunification is a very special project Morning Tears has been working on.

"Often, when a father is sent to prison, the mother goes to a faraway place in order to escape criticism and discrimination. Her children are left behind," Koen said. "What we do is contact the mother and persuade her to take back her child. We also help the mother find a job in a new place so they can make a living, and we take care of the child's schooling in the new place as well."

Koen said the barbecue was a family-oriented event in accord with Morning Tears' spirit of bringing happiness to families.

"Such charity activities deserve to be praised," said Sun Jin, a psychologist who attended the barbecue with her friends. "Children whose parents are imprisoned are usually emotionally fragile and rebellious, and if left alone they're at risk of becoming delinquents."

In 2009, Morning Tears received an International Friendship Award from the Chinese government, and this past April it received a China Charity Award for "protecting and assisting children in China" for more than 10 years.

Ange said Morning Tears would hold another charity activity in September.

Event

Chinese shadow puppet performance

Shichahai Shadow Art Performance Hotel offers diners a traditional shadow puppet performance to go along with dinner. Those interested in the backstage area only need to ask to see it. There, diners can try their hand at a few of their own moves. Guests are treated to a complimentary drink as part of the experience.

Where: Shichahai Shadow Art Performance Hotel, 24 Song Shu Jie, Xicheng District

When: 8:30 pm, every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday (RSVP required)

Tel: 13601331565

Cost: 100 yuan per person, free for kids

Hip-hop ballet performance

Tired of traditional ballet and want to see something new and different? French choreographer Anthony Egéa returns to Beijing to give a fresh new dance performance that combines hip-hop, ballet and tai chi. Egéa, director and choreographer of the Revolution Company, was invited to China to present Urban Ballet during the Croisements Festival in China last spring. His new hip-hop ballet has already fascinated audiences in Shenzhen, Kunming and Wuhan.

Where: Tianqiao Theater, 30 Beiwei Lu, Xuanwu District (opposite to the Museum of Natural History)

When: 7:30 pm, June 24

Tel: 6417 7845

Cost: 100-480 yuan

Hilton Secret Garden summer barbecue

Enjoy a fancy barbecue feast in Secret Garden, Hilton. It offers a variety of meats, seafood and vegetables, from a range of sources. It also offers local beer, house wine and soft drinks, as well as desserts.

Where: 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Beilu, Sanyuanqiao, Chaoyang District

When: 6-8:30 pm, Wednesday every week

Tel: 5865 5030

Cost: 208 yuan (including drinks)

Beijing Summer Tango Weekend

For tango lovers, the international event "The Dream of Illusion - Beijing Summer Tango Weekend," organized by Tango Chino Club, is a can't-miss opportunity to show off your moves. A lakeside ball will happen around Houhai in the afternoon. Paula Tejeda and Lucas Carrizo, winners of the 2010 Metropolitan Tango Championship, will be here along with six of Asia's top tango dancers.

Where: Room 05020, 5/F, Building B, Chaowai SOHO, Chaoyang District

When: 9 pm - 4 am, June 16-19

Tel: 15110015041

Cost: 80-200 yuan

(By Wei Xi)



Local poet Yang Lian at UCCA

Photo provided by UCCA

Chinese and Slovenian poets promote writing in dialects

By Xinji Letu

Leading poets from China and Slovenia met last week at the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art to promote poetry-writing in one's native dialect.

Initiated by renowned Beijing-born poet Yang Lian, the program, called *The World in Native Land*, tries to encourage poets to use their own dialects to communicate with the rest of the world.

"The word 'international,' which we are very much familiar with today, should not be an illusion. If we cannot establish a dialogue on the basis of the depth of our native cultures, then 'international communication' is an empty phrase," Yang said.

Yang visited Slovenia last year and met four leading poets in the country who share the same idea. The event at UCCA brought together 11 leading Chinese poets from Shanghai, Henan, Sichuan,

Hong Kong and other parts of the country with Slovenian poets, who read their works and exchanged views using different dialects.

"There is no comparison between Slovenia and China in terms of size, but there are many interesting parallels among poets," said Ales Steger, a young Slovenian poet.

Steger said there are more than 100 official dialects in Slovenia, and only several of them can be written on paper. In China, standard Chinese is the only language used on paper.

"At first, I thought it was impossible to write in my dialect, given Shanghai tends to be very folk and unable to express high-level meaning," said Yang Xiaobin, a Shanghai-born poet. But the event made him realize otherwise.

Yang Lian said poets will lose their own characteristics, which are based on their unique native cul-

ture, if they continue to write exclusively in the standard form.

"Dialect seems to be a strain of local culture, but it is a source of our fundamental ideologies," said Slovenian poet Milan Jesih. "It's very important to try, at the most fundamental level, to express ourselves in our own language."

"To me, writing in dialect is a very funny and exciting thing to do," said Hu Xudong, a Chongqing-born poet and professor at Peking University who has been writing

poetry in his dialect for 15 years. "Dialect comes up in many respects in our daily life, and it also has lots of strange and fresh elements that are very helpful in my creation."

As part of the program, poets from the two countries have translated many of their counterparts' works. They hope it will serve to deepen mutual understanding.

"It was an honor for me to meet those Slovenian poets and establish friendships with them," Hu said.

Choosing reliable express services



The courier industry is booming as a result of increasing online purchases.

By Yao Weijie

Here's a classic tale of a delivery gone wrong, based on true events.

A woman mailed a notebook from Beijing to Hohhot through Zhaijisong (ZJS) express. Two days later, when the recipient opened the package, only some magazines and newspapers were left.

The Inner Mongolia branch of ZJS admitted it had made a mistake and began to investigate this matter. Discussions of compensation are ongoing, but the materials are likely lost forever.

Such accidents seem to occur frequently. With the rapid development of online shopping, the courier industry is becoming more and more popular, but it's triggered increasing complaints: frequent delays and slow service; lost products; higher-than-expected delivery fees. Companies are also apt to deny wrongdoing when it occurs.

According to State Post Bureau statistics, in the first quarter of this year, national postal administrations at all levels received 9,000

valid complaints about express delivery, a 274 percent increase compared with last year. Shipment delays, loss of items and damaged items were the most common complaints.

"The main reason is the processing capacity of the express industry does not meet the need; demand exceeds supply," said Shao Zhonglin, deputy secretary of China Express Association.

How to avoid disputes and safeguard valuables is becoming a serious question.

First, one should choose big companies with more reliable services instead of smaller, money-saving carriers.

"I have no experience using local express services in China because it causes more problem than national posts," said Babb Marie, who works at Hewlett Packard. "I usually go to the post office and send it with the normal post. However, if I have some valuable things to send, I will choose an international company like DHL over local carriers."

"In accordance with standards, couriers must deliver goods

to the doorstep of the customer, and if the couriers tell you to not write the specific name of valuables, he is wrong, as people should fill in the delivery form as specifically as possible, including name, specification, quantity and cost," Shao said.

Both sides of the transaction should make an agreement in advance about how lost items should be compensated. Express businesses should compensate for lost items according to the agreements.

Under normal circumstances, delivery companies only need to pay five times the delivery fee as compensation.

People should review the contracts offered by express courier companies. Couriers should make consumers read the contract and sign it.

Consumers are encouraged to buy insurance. The fee is normally 1 to 3 percent of the value of the delivered items.

Above all, when receiving the goods, people should check their package before signing off on it.

CFP Photo

Recommended express companies

Shunfeng Express

12 yuan for the first kilogram and 2 yuan for each additional kilogram

Tel: 4008111111

Website: sf-express.com

Shentong Express

10 yuan per kilogram

Tel: 8046 2111

Website: sto.cn

Yuantong Express

8 yuan per kilogram

Tel: 021-6977 7888 / 999

Website: yto.net.cn

Zhongtong Express

12 yuan for the first kilogram and 8 yuan for each additional kilogram

Tel: 5149 3333, 4007893333

Website: zto.cn

Yunda Express

8 yuan for the first kilogram and 3 yuan for each additional kilogram

Tel: 021-3920 7888

Website: yundaex.com

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to:
weiyi@ynet.com

With the new train regulation coming into effect, are there any changes in the ticket-buying process? Can I buy a ticket at an outlet or should I go to the train stations?

If you need to take a C, D or G train, you need to bring your passport, residence permit, entry and exit certificate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs-issued ID card, consular certificate or official diplomatic identification to the train station. Only the station can sell these kinds of tickets.

There's no demand for such identification for other trains yet, and those tickets can be purchased from outlets or travel agencies.

I need to buy an American medicine, but I don't know if any pharmacy here sells it. I am not able to translate the medicine's name into Chinese. Any suggestions?

Go straight to your local pharmacy and show someone the name of your medicine. Most pharmacists know the English names of regularly used medicines. You can also try typing the English name of the medicine into Google, Baidu or the English-Chinese dictionary nciku.com.

What is the eye exam in China like? Do I need to know Chinese characters if I want to take an eye exam? How much does it cost?

Eye exams in China use the letter "E" in four directions to check your eyesight. You just need to point out which direction the letter "E" faces. It doesn't cost much if you do an eye exam at a local clinic or hospital, but it will be more expensive in an international clinic or hospital, for they employ English-speaking staff.

(By Wei Xi)

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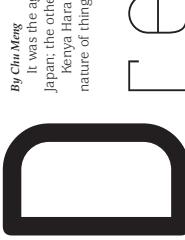
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By Chu Meng
Japan: the other is of China. One is about the optimism of original design; the other is about the success of commercial occupation.

Kenya Hara brings his most classic - but not the most breathtaking - design works to Beijing for the first time, aiming to illustrate his insights of "the nature of things" and "the aesthetics-integrated corporate designs."

→ Japan's solo exhibition shows the origins of originality

Design is about how you interpret the other, negative, "he said. In his book *Design: The Art of Design*, published in 2009, he said design is an expression of an individual's will or dream for society at large. Therefore, design is not self-expression, but something that originates outside the self in the fabric of society.

He believed that if they stand under the tree, but they might see the fruit ripening on a tree that is some distance away. Hara says that it is thanks to this that his neighbor that Japan's creative culture is once again beginning to find its soul.

Japan is standing beside and observing a bustling China on the verge of an economic boom. It's like looking upon a gigantic shopping center newly built in the neighboring town.

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"Japan is standing beside and observing a bustling China on the verge of an economic boom. It's like looking upon a gigantic shopping center newly built in the neighboring town."

Kenya Hara at the opening ceremony of the Beijing Center of Art on Sunday. The exhibition, the result of a three-year endeavor by Chinese designer Zhu E, whose work has dedicated to imitating Chinese designs with Japanese spirit.

Zhu E divided the exhibition into three sections: M.G.I.-Directed Art, An Exhibition of Exhibitions and The Phases of Design. He traces Hara's creative ideas and corporate design career, as well as presents an overview of the nucleus of Japan's design industry.

Hara is a name familiar to most designers. Outside design circles, he is best known for MCM, his neobrand goods that emphasize minimalism and simplicity and avoids wasteful

production and unnecessary packaging.

The artist said that, as a designer, his role is transforming ideas into materials.

As a corporate designer, what I am doing that others are not is stopping for a while before starting my real design work. I think about what something should look like and how it was used when initially invented by humans. Such retrospection always help me a lot, he said.

Dressed in his usual black, he looks as

stern and concise as his designs. But a certain air of coolness, like an injection of fertilizer.

But the artist said such comments are based on a one-sided impression.

He's the star of the Takarazuka Revue Company, the popular Japanese all-female dance troupe. He's known for his brilliant effects. She loves rich and bright colors and exaggerated appearances very much. Our aprons are all in bright colors. I have to cook, "he said.

The same is true of many of his designs.

Though I am on the other extreme, I accept and appreciate aesthetic taste, he said.

He said the past 25 years spent trying to live with his wife have helped him find a balance in artistic discipline and have given him a clearer vision about the nature of design.

Things on either extreme sometimes share the same origin, and the same is true of Japanese and Chinese design. Both Japan and China love much of their design tradition to the works created during the Tang dynasty some 1,000 years ago.

One is like sushi rolls, white and clean, the other is like boiled fish, colorful and soggy.

But you cannot simply eat one positive

and the other negative, "he said.

In his book *Design: The Art of Design*, published in 2009, he said design is an expression of an individual's will or dream for society at large. Therefore, design is not self-expression, but something that originates outside the self in the fabric of society.

He believed that if they stand under the tree, but they might see the fruit ripening on a tree that is some distance away. Hara says that it is thanks to this that his neighbor that Japan's creative culture is once again beginning to find its soul.

He said that it saddened him to see the cultural intrusion of European ideas at the

cost of traditional Chinese design and characterized young designers for looking to other continents for ideas instead of back into their own heritage.

The secret ingredient in Hara's corporate designs is his process of discerning a problem.

From my student days to my commercial work, problems have been presented to me by my professors and clients. I have had to solve them differently. That's why I love tough clients. It once comes up a quirky question, the answer is sure to be unique, he said.

His wife, Architects' Mezzavari, was one such assigned topic that challenged famous architects to redesign the humble mezzavari, a chair.

Hara said the Japan Institute of Architects required him to present the creativity of architects in some way that would make it understandable to the general public.

Second, mezzavari, while familiar to people, was just the sort of object with which architects could be creative.

His wife, Architects' Mezzavari, was one such assigned topic that challenged famous architects to redesign the humble mezzavari, a chair.

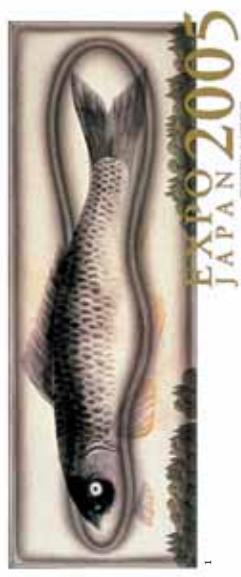
Hara said the Japan Institute of Architects required him to present the creativity of architects in some way that would make it understandable to the general public.

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1 Brochure of Aichi-Japan Expo 2005 designed by Kenya Hara
2 Kenzo perfume bottles by Kenya Hara
3 Seed of Love by Ross Lovegrove
4 Water Logo
5 The Phases of Design by young Japanese designers
6 Kenya Hara's works in The Designing Design section
7 Architects' Mezzavari

Photos provided by Beijing Center of Art

Chasing the Chinese dream

By Li Zhixin

Last Saturday, Chinese American writer Helen Wang spoke about the Chinese dream and the impact the nation's rising middle class will have on society and the world at the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA).

In her book, *The Chinese Dream: The Rise of the World's Largest Middle Class and What It Means to You*, Wang discusses a wide variety of topics related to the rising middle class and explores its implications for the economy, environment, culture and political climate.

Wang said there was no Chinese dream when she left China 20 years ago.

"Today, many young people in China have abundant opportunities to realize their dreams by running their own business. Even many of my American friends are going to China because of the tremendous opportunities presented here," she said.

The birth of the new middle class owes much to dramatic changes that have taken place during the last 15 years.

The restructuring of China's economic system at the beginning

of the 1990s helped a group of officials make the first plunge into the commercial world. Globalization gave urban people an image of middle class life to pursue. The explosion of urbanization brought that dream to many.

She said China's middle class is deeply influenced by American lifestyles. "To own a big house, drive a nice car and have a comfortable life – middle class Chinese want it all," she said.

"They are bombarded by many material temptations and proliferating choices. TV commercials, the Internet and Hollywood movies give them a rosy picture of the American middle class," she said.

To Wang's way of thinking, the Chinese dream is a copy of the American dream.

"The burgeoning middle class, expected to number 600 to 800 million within the next 15 years, is jumping aboard the consumerism train and riding it for all it's worth – that may provide the answer to America's economic woes," she said.

The book also presents ways Western companies can capitalize on China's enormous consumer

market and argues that the Chinese middle class will be an alternative growth engine for the global economy.

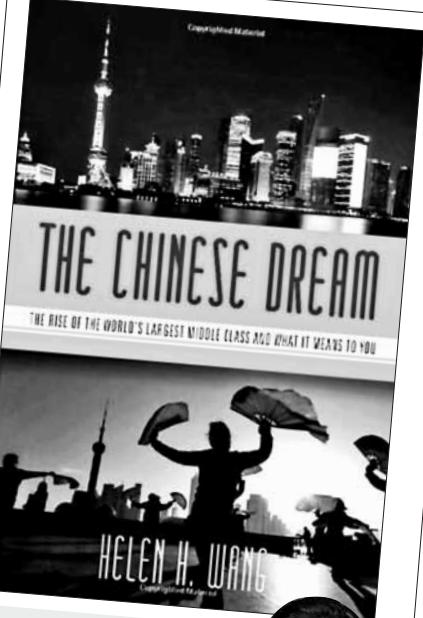
Although a large Chinese middle class offers significant benefits for the world economy, it will also pose serious challenges to the environment, she said.

But this also provides the US with a chance to help China resolve its own problems. The bottom-up environmental movement in the US and the top-down governmental approach in China may also offer a chance for mutual learning and collaboration.

The book recounts stories of people's search for spirituality and their desire to find meaning in life.

"It is also a big challenge for Chinese government to resolve the middle class's quest for balance between material and spiritual enrichment," she said.

She concludes that China's middle class is connected to "Westerners" by a common set of core values, aspirations and dreams.



The Chinese Dream: The Rise of the World's Largest Middle Class and What It Means to You

By Helen Wang, 244pp, Best-seller Press, \$13.57



UCCA 艾伦
Helen Wang

New York punk icon remembers

By Charles Zhu

Patti Smith, an aspiring poet in her youth and a punk icon in her later years, has published *Just Kids* to tell the story of her 22-year friendship, romance and collaboration with fellow photographer Robert Mapplethorpe that ended in 1989 when Mapplethorpe died of AIDS.

Both were born in 1946 and raised by poor parents. Smith became pregnant at 19, gave up her baby and went to New York as a poor poet to try her talent. She described herself as "the country mouse." She had no real friends and other drifters and hippies helped her find food and shelter.

Eventually, she got a job as a saleswoman in a bookshop and met Mapplethorpe, "a sleeping youth cloaked in light," who was the same age and just as poor. Together they leased a Brooklyn apartment together and began collecting little talismans and paying great attention to the way they dressed.

Mapplethorpe was ambitious and craved artistic success; Smith set her sights on fame and beauty and aspired to join what she saw as a great succession of poets: Blake, Baudelaire, Rimbaud, Genet and the Beats.

She recalls in vivid detail her first encounters with William Burroughs and Allen Ginsberg, the greats in her pantheon of true artists. For her, many sites in New York were worth paying homage to.

"It was exciting just to stand in front of the hallowed ground of Birdland that had been blessed by John Coltrane, or the Five Spot on St Mark's Place where Billie Holiday used to sing," she writes.

Like all lovers, they told each other about their childhoods: "We used to laugh at our small selves, saying that I was a bad girl trying to be good and that he was a good boy trying to be bad."

As a child, Mapplethorpe had been a mama's boy and had made necklaces for his mother, but later, as an adult, he made his fame through his taboo-busting photographs of pain and blood and sadomasochistic



Just Kids
By Patti Smith, 320pp, Ecco, \$16

imagery and child nudity. When she lived with Mapplethorpe in Brooklyn, she tried to write verse while earning bread for the house. For a long time she supported poor Mapplethorpe, who at the time was making "altars" of found objects some-

what in the manner of the American surrealist Joseph Cornell. He took to photography only later, but once he settled into it as a profession he began making his name known.

Smith's love affair with Mapplethorpe soured when she learned that he was gay. Although they had been a loving couple for several years, he began to make extra money as a rent boy. What she deemed even more difficult to accept was his social ascent.

The book offers readers tips for how an artistic career can be launched. Smith gave a carefully orchestrated poetry reading at St Mark's in New York that won her public acclaim and chances of publication.

She bought a guitar to pursue work as a musician, and was so creative and clever that she turned some of her poems into songs. She organized a band and toured the world, eventually becoming a darling of the punks, a great rock singer and composer.

Mapplethorpe's drawn portrait of her became her standard image.

This book tells of things that made New York so exhilarating in the 1970s – the risk and poverty, the artistic pursuit and hopefulness, all the elements that made New York the cultural metropolis of the Western world.

Timezone 8 book listing

Timezone 8 is a Hong Kong-based publisher, distributor and retailer of books on contemporary art, architecture, photography and design. This week, it recommends three upcoming titles to *Beijing Today* readers.

Art China Now

Edited by Jerome Sans, 528pp, Blue Kingfisher / Timezone 8, \$50

As Chinese art continues to reinvent itself, spawning fascinating new genres and continuing to hold the global art world's attention, Jerome Sans' *Art China Now* brings enthusiasts up to date with this massive A-to-Z survey of the country's leading artists.

Zhang Peili: Chinese Contemporary Art Awards 2010

Edited by Zhang Peili, 160pp, Blue Kingfisher / Timezone 8, \$40

Considered the first Chinese artist to work in video, Zhang Peili has been a prominent figure in the Chinese contemporary art scene since the mid-'80s. In 2010 he won the Chinese Contemporary Art Award for his lifetime contribution, and his use of video as a philosophical tool has influenced generations of artists across the country. This volume surveys his career.

Olafur Eliasson & Ma Yansong: Feelings Are Facts

Edited by Cui Qiao, 60pp, Shanghai Century Publishing, \$21

Danish-Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson and the young Chinese architect Ma Yansong collaborated on an installation in which light and architecture merge to warp the viewer's experience of space. Eliasson's artificial fog, illuminated with fluorescent red, green and blue lamps, engulfs Ma's curving wooden floor that continually forces visitors to adjust their balance.



Electro music resurrects the neon look

By Chu Meng

Electronic music climbed back onto the billboards in the US this summer with new singles by Ryan Farish, Rihanna and Britney Spears. The influence of these pop giants influenced many of the lineups at INTRO Electronic Music Festival and Strawberry Music Festival.

Now the associated look is starting to hit the runways, with fluorescent accessories, color collisions and exaggerated shapes. Even if you aren't an electro and dance maniac, you can look the part by picking up some of these clothes.

"This season people are going crazy about fluorescents, from top to bottom," said Samantha Xing, the 36-year-old senior editor of *L'Officiel China*. She had just finished her work on an electro-themed feature for the upcoming issue of the popular fashion magazine.

Xing has already embraced the look with fluorescent yellow-and-pink leopard print nail polish. "This is not like the sweet, butter yellow we saw last season. This is pure, bright yellow," she said. Her nails match her fluorescent yellow-and-gray striped sweater bought from Korea and her white denim H&M shorts.

She said it's time to clear the cupboards and say "goodbye" to gloomy winter make-up. Flamboyant shades and fluorescent colors will be dominating magazine pages in every possible way.

For make-up

Estée Lauder's chief make-up artist Tom Pecheux won endless applause with his runway assortment of fluorescent orange eye shadow at the Derek Lam 2011 Summer fashion show.

"Fuchsia pink, lemon yellow, meadow green and even lagoon blue – anything goes. Although these colors can be superbly managed in the hands of professional make-up artists, it's a slightly different matter for mere mortals. I have tested the craziest colors on myself and proved that with little means – one or two products were used without professional brushes – and used sparingly, fluorescent make-up can light up every summer outfit," Xing said.

1. Neon Rainbow Eye Make-up:

Rainbow eye make-up stands out best when the rainbow is fluorescent. Combine medium shades with bright turquoise, neon green, yellow and magenta for a creative look. Start from two colors and work your way up.

2. Hot Pink Shadow and Green Liner:

Hot pink is a bold, 1980s-inspired look that really draws attention to the eyes, especially in summer. And it is a safer match for your skin than other bright colors.

Try a hot fluorescent pink eye shadow



People wear fluorescent yellow make-up at INTRO Electronic Music Festival in 798 Art Zone.

and contrasting green eyeliner. If you want your fluorescent eyes looking more elegant, consider an electric green or blue liner paired with a neutral eye shadow.

3. Fluorescent Orange Eye Shadow:

Fluorescent orange is popular on the runways of luxury brands this summer, but it can be risky for Asian skin tones. Consider light fluorescent orange eye shadow contrasted with blue eye liner. Extending your eye shadow and liner past your eyes can lend a romantic, fairy-like appeal.

4. Neon Smoky Eye: Brighten up your look with a party-perfect pop of electric navy or another fluorescent shadow color laid over regular smoky eye shadows.

For dresses

Fluorescent or neon clothing with exaggerated shapes is a throwback to 1980s fashion. That it is coming back with a vengeance is certain. The look seems to follow electronic music, which has seen a surge in popularity worldwide during the last decade.

The colors are made to look great under the black lights used at raves, nightclubs and discos.

"If you want to keep in step with the world's top fashion icons, search for Lady Gaga on the Internet and A-to-Z guides to dresses. But her look is pretty extreme," she said.

Fashion trends tend to have a social or



Neon makeups is in fashion at the night clubs in this summer.

Photos provided by Lloyd Barnes



economic back story. She said the revival of fluorescent clothing is popular because most people are looking for ways to have fun and be crazy. The psychological phenomenon seems to be tied to times of financial hardship.

"I remember that fluorescent clothing started to become very big in 1984, about the same time that the Madonna look was very popular. This was when George Michael released 'Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go,' and that really set off the trend," Xing said.

She said her first touch with fluorescent dress was in the late 1990s in Beijing, when roller skating themed disco bars were still popular. Her favorite dresses were white T-shirt and fluorescent shorts or skirts, which looked cool under the dark disco lights. At that time, T-shirts were mainly white with cute fluorescent designs on the front.

Today fluorescent color dresses are seductive, playful, generous and lively. Exaggerated accessories in metal and leather give women the feeling of being chic and luxurious. Odd mixes, slender handbags and smart heels are part of the look.

However her top tip for dressing fluorescent colors involves the use of fluorescent socks.

"I bought every color I saw in the shopping mall – cyan, bright blue, lime green, yellow, hot pink and orange. Wear two pairs of socks at once and roll the outer pair down

to the ankle. Don't worry if the colors don't match – they can mismatch as much as you want," she said.

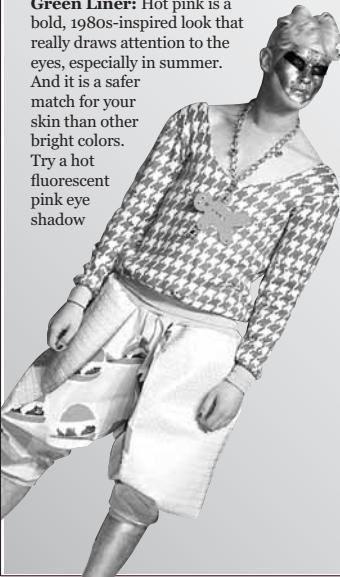
1. **Accessories are also very important.** One neon colored piece in your outfit is enough to create the proper atmosphere, don't spoil it with hoops and bangles. Choose neutral colored minimum size earrings and simple fantasy jewelry.

2. **Neon colored dresses, on the other hand, are really enchanting** if you pair them with cork wedges and a white bag, pink, yellow; neon orange dresses are perfect for summer – these will highlight your mood.

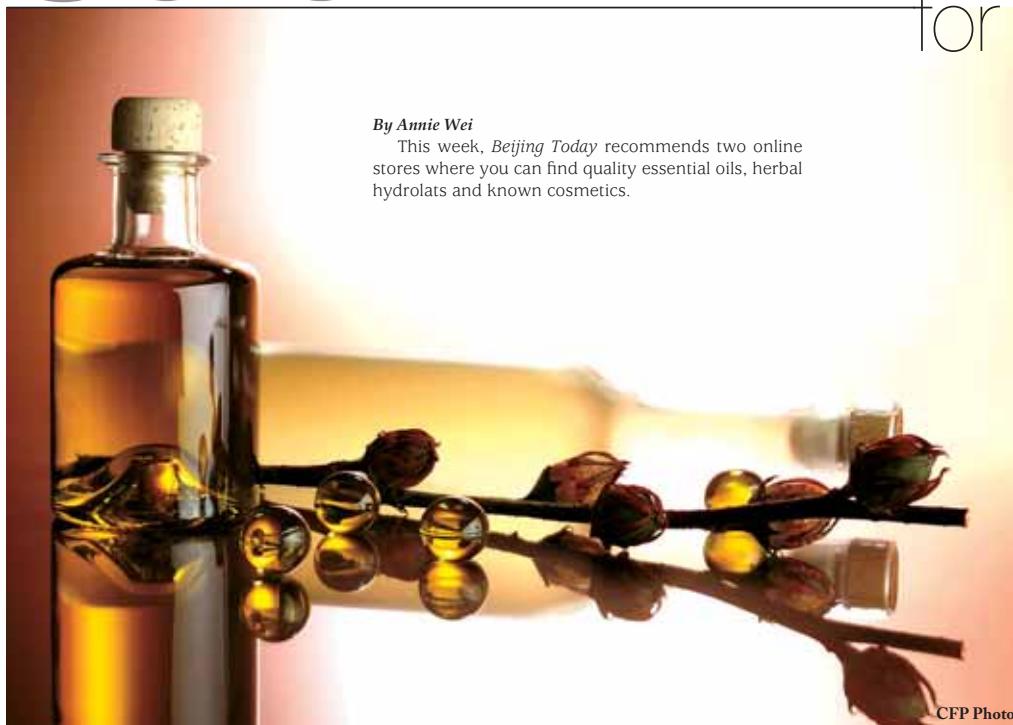
3. **Wearing neon on the lower half of our body** is easier because bright colors may not fit your face if you have yellow or brown skin. Put on neon tights and pair them with a simple classic black dress and black shoes.

4. If you're rather shy about wearing neon colors, **begin with a clutch or a small- or medium-sized purse.**

5. **Place the neon piece of clothing on the favorite part of your body** because it will immediately attract others' attention. Avoid wearing it on your thickest part, the fat hips or bosom, for instance.



Safe skincare products for the heat



By Annie Wei

This week, *Beijing Today* recommends two online stores where you can find quality essential oils, herbal hydrolats and known cosmetics.

CFP Photo



Herbal biscuits, 30 yuan per bag



Herbal hydrolat, 45 yuan per 30 milliliters



Organic rice, 12 yuan per 500 grams



Dry herbs, 10 yuan per bag

Photos provided by
Hilltop Herb Farm

Organic herb hydrolat from Anhui

Hilltop Herb Farm, the English name of Xiaotuanshan Xiangcao Farm, is an organic farm from Anhui Province that showcased its herbal products for the first time at County Fair last Saturday.

The farm was founded in 2006 by 12 professors from Taiwan who hoped to promote organic farming, agriculture and livestock-raising in support of a low-carbon lifestyle.

As herbs are associated with good health, the farm produces lots of herbal products, including herbal tea, pillows, biscuits, candies, tofu and vinegar, as well as essential oils and hydrolats.

The farm's star products are three different types of hydrolats (45 yuan per 30 milliliters): rosemary, lavender and lemongrass. Unlike essential oils, hydrolats are drinkable.

Rosemary hydrolat is said to help the stomach and digestion, enhance memory and relieve headaches and improve thinning hair (not suitable for pregnant women though).

Lavender hydrolat (45 yuan per 30 milliliters) can be used as facial toner after cleaning one's face; it moistens and whitens.

Those interested in herbal products can purchase them at Taobao or visit the farm's Beijing workshop.

Where: 3-101, Building 2, Jinggao Guoji, 19 Xi Dawang Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 6 pm, Monday to Friday (please call to make sure products you are interested in are available)

Tel: 8775 5443

Website:

shop64532106.taobao.com

Beauty from star blogger

Yang Bingyang, a young female blogger and writer with half a million followers on her Sina weibo, is known for her objective, bold and sharp writing style about relationships. She also runs a Taobao store that sells cosmetic products.

After noticing thousands of fake products online, Yang shared tips on how to evaluate online cosmetic products' quality.

Most knockoffs are of low-priced products, especially samples and eau de toilette (1 to 200 yuan). Never buy the cheapest items, as they are most likely fake, Yang said.

Yang also suggests not buying fragrance online, as they are the easiest products to copy, and fakes have high profit margins.

Also, some online vendors' products are half-genuine and half-fake. Online vendors probably don't have a huge inventory, so be suspicious of those who advertise "hundreds" of a certain item.

Yang also said customers should trust their nose – real products have a pleasant scent – and they should compare their products with those sold at a reliable department store.

Yang also has a Taobao store that sells many known brands at reasonable prices.

Website: wawaclass.taobao.com



Skin-care and cosmetic products can be lifesavers during the summer.

CFP Photos

NEW

Inagiku's fine modern Japanese dining

By Annie Wei

Established in Tokyo in 1866, Inagiku is a well-known upscale international restaurant, though it's been very selective in the cities it opens in. It can be found exclusively in international five-star hotels such as the Waldorf Astoria in New York, Fairmont Hotel in Singapore, Shangri-La in Manila, Four Seasons Hotel and Royal Garden Hotel in Hong Kong.

Beijing's Park Hyatt can now be added to the list.

Unlike many Japanese restaurants that focus too much on sushi and sashimi, Inagiku's style is Kyoto's slow simmer. The diners of Kyoto prefer slow-cooked food that takes a long time to prepare. Chefs at Inagiku begin preparing some soups at least eight hours in advance.

For starters, we liked the steam egg with black truffles (80 yuan), a dish popular with many foodies. When you take off the lid, there is a strong black truffle aroma. The egg is smooth, silky and delicious. It is prepared with bonito stick, a rare fish especially good for making stock and kombu, a kind of seaweed.

Japanese fresh-boiled lobster (280 yuan) is a traditional dish in Japan, especially around New Year's. Lobster is believed to boost one's energy. The dish uses

broth made of bonito stick and kombu, and the lobster comes out tender.

The highlight is Sumibiyaki Wagyu beef (250 yuan for 50 grams). Sumibiyaki means charcoal-grilled. The beef is grilled directly on top of white charcoal, which is cleaner than the black variety. It's garnished with crispy fried garlic, making the beef more delicious.

The restaurant's specialty is fried crab with chili (780 yuan), which needs to be ordered in advance.

Something one should never miss is the Japanese noodles (80 yuan). The soup is prepared with bonito stick and the noodles are chewy. If you order fried crab with chili, we suggest putting the garlic from the fried crab into the soup.

If you are used to getting sashimi at Japanese restaurants, try the abalone and uni sashimi (196 yuan). The Australian uni tastes sweet while the abalone is chewy.

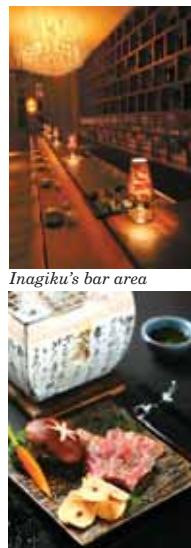
Inagiku

Where: Floor 3, Park Hyatt Hotel, Yintai Center, 2 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Open: noon - 3 pm, 6 pm - 12:30 am the next day

Tel: 8517 2838

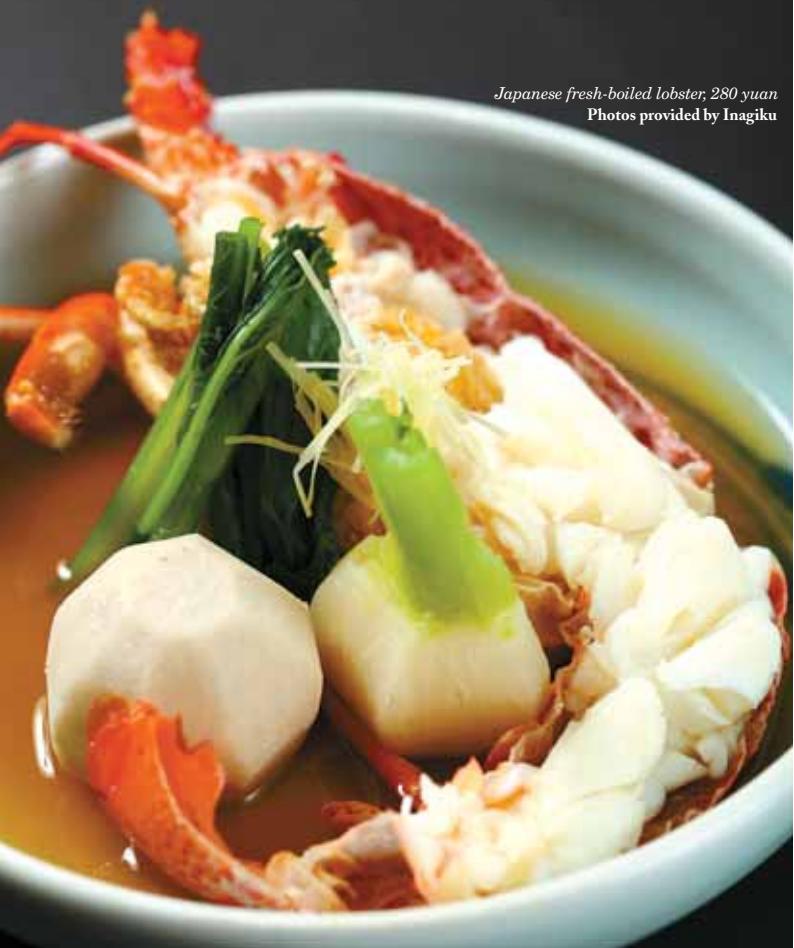
Cost: Average 300 yuan per person



Inagiku's bar area



Sumibiyaki Wagyu beef, 250 yuan

Japanese fresh-boiled lobster, 280 yuan
Photos provided by Inagiku

Nuage brings back authentic Shandong cuisine

By Annie Wei

Many people know Nuage as one of the earliest Vietnamese restaurants around Houhai, established in 2001. But few are aware that it occupies a building that used to be a famous Shandong restaurant during the reign of the Daoguang Emperor (1821-51).

Nuage's owner decided to pay homage to that bit of history at the end of last year by bringing back authentic Shandong dishes.

Shandong cuisine is called *lucai*, as *lu* is the abbreviation for Shandong Province.

Lucai encompasses two areas: one centered around Qingdao, with lots of fresh seafood, and another from Jinan and Dezhou, areas known for duck dishes that may have been the precursors for Peking duck.

The restaurant's executive chef used to work at Beijing Fangshan Restaurant, which has served royal cuisine for more than 80 years, said Zhu Runrun, Nuage's marketing manager.

Lucai is slightly salty. Recommended dishes include *caoliu yupian* (88 yuan), fish in wine-flavored sauce. The dish is prepared using a fat and fresh bass that is cooked with 20-year-old mulled rice wine, osmanthus, dates and

plums on the stove at low temperature. The heat helps the mixture ferment.

Xiangsuji (48 yuan for half chicken and 68 yuan for a whole), crispy fried marinated chicken, is another classic. A chicken is marinated with homemade sauce for a week. Then it is steamed for eight hours with stewed soup



Fish in wine-flavored sauce, 88 yuan

until the meat and bones are ready to separate. The chicken is then deep-fried until it achieves a golden color.

Congshao haishen (198 yuan), sautéed sea cucumber with scallions, is Shandong's most famous dish, known for its strong scallion fragrance. The key is to fry the scallions in hot oil to release their smell. The sea cucumber is braised with stock three times to

give it a strong flavor.

The restaurant updates its traditional dishes from time to time. New highlights include *danhuang zuomingxia* (98 yuan), sautéed prawns with egg yolk. The egg yolk powder gives the prawns an extra flavor yet keeps the prawns' fresh and tender taste.

People who like tofu should try the *boshan doufuxiang* (78 yuan), tofu stuffed with pork and mushroom. The tofu is cut into cubes and stuffed with minced pork, water chestnuts and mushrooms.

Nuage is divided into separate restaurants, but the building remains Chinese in décor, with delicately carved wood frames and the owner's antique collection.

It also serves Man-han banquet and its rooftop is a great spot for dining at night, when one can enjoy the view of Beihai Lake, the Drum and Bell Towers and, on a clear night, the CCTV tower.

Nuage Lucai restaurant

Where: 22 Qianhai Dongyan, Xicheng District

Open: 10:30 am - 2 pm, 5:30-10 pm

Tel: 6404 6717

Cost: Average 100 yuan per person



Nuage's rooftop

NEW

Photos provided by Nuage



Crispy fried marinated chicken, 68 yuan

17

Food

BEIJING TODAY Editor: Wei Ying Designer: Deng Ning



5 Friday, June 17

Exhibition

The Road – Yue Minjun Solo Exhibition

With his symbolic laughing faces, Yue tries to depict irony in the real world.

Where: Peace Beijing, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until July 16, daily except Monday, 10 am – 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5978 9781

Nightlife

Yang – North Star Music Live

Three foreign bands – Christmas, Dude and Red Pirate – bring you their original Chinese songs. They will perform popular songs in their own unique, humorous way.

Where: Dong Dian Art Factory, 36 Guangyu Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 30 yuan
advance purchase, 50 yuan at

the door

Tel: 5205 1113

Movie

Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights (2004)

This romantic film is set in Cuba. An American teenage girl follows her father, an executive at Ford, to Havana, where she and her family are lodged in a fancy hotel. There, she meets a teenage waiter with whom she falls in love.

Where: Sculpting in Time Cafe, Beihang University, 37 Xueyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 15 yuan

Tel: 8231 0664



Nightlife

Yang – North Star Music Live

Three foreign bands – Christmas, Dude and Red Pirate – bring you their original Chinese songs. They will perform popular songs in their own unique, humorous way.

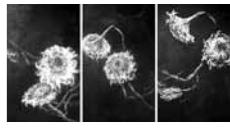
Where: Dong Dian Art Factory, 36 Guangyu Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 30 yuan
advance purchase, 50 yuan at

Sunday, June 19

Lei Shuang Oil Painting Works Solo Exhibition



Lei Shuang focuses on flowers. She views human beings as a part of nature and our spirits as blossoming flowers of

Mother Nature.

Where: Beijing Cocolan Art Center, 39-51 Building 6, 22 Baizhan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until July 10, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 5807 4911

Nightlife

Electro Night

This night is all about the crossover of electronic and dance music, encompassing hints of rock, avant-garde and indie.

Where: D-22, 242 Chengfu

Lu, Haidian District

When: 9 pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 6265 3177

Movie

The Sun Also Rises (2007)

The film is of interconnected stories in different time zones, shifting between a Yunnan village, a campus and the Gobi Desert. It is the third directorial work of Jiang Wen.

Where: Broadway Cinematheque, 2/F Building 4, north section of Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), 1 Xiangheyuan

Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 4 pm
Admission: 40 yuan
Tel: 8438 8258 ext. 8008
(By Xinji Letu)



Upcoming

Nightlife

Papier Tigre + Re-Tros

French band Papier Tigre works with Chinese band Re-Tros to bring you its latest songs.

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-1 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: June 23, 8 pm

Admission: 30 yuan advance purchase, 50 yuan at the door

Tel: 6553 2678

Stage in July

Concert

Chen Sa Piano Recital

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: July 8, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-400 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Dresden Philharmonic Children's Choir

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 18 Zhaodengyu Lu, Xicheng District

When: July 12, 7:30 pm

Admission: 30-100 yuan

Tel: 6417 7845

King's College Choir

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: July 15, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-400 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Lorin Maazel and Castleton Festival Orchestra

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: July 29-30, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-680 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Dance

Grand Ballet of Montreal

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: July 20-21, 7:30 pm

Admission: 100-580 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Drama

On the Road

Where: Nine Theater (TNT), Chaoyang Culture Center, 12 Jintai Li, Chaoyang District

When: July 5-10, 7:30 pm

Admission: 100-500 yuan, 50 yuan for students

Tel: 6551 6930

Some Kind of Poison

Where: Multi-functional Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: July 20-29, 7:30 pm

Admission: 200-680 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Opera

Purcell's Dido and Aeneas

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 18 Zhaodengyu Lu, Xicheng District

When: July 15, 7:30 pm

Admission: 20-100 yuan

Tel: 6417 7845

(By He Jianwei)

The dangers of hidden plasticizers

Crisis for food safety

As many as 500 Taiwanese companies were exposed as producing 900 products contaminated by a plasticizing agent as of June 5.

A new investigation found that Taipei's famous Shilin Night Market was also affected, as many food vendors were found to be using toxic products or raw materials.

Toxic plasticizers were first found in soft drinks by a quality inspector at the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration after manufacturers illegally added the carcinogenic Bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) as a clouding agent to make their drinks appear richer.

Despite its known health effects, DEHP, also called di-octylphthalate or DOP, is widely used as plasticizer in plastic materials, and is added as a substitute for palm oil in food and drink products due to its low cost.

Experts said DEHP is 20 times more toxic than melamine, which poisoned many children during a milk scare several years ago.

The General Administration of Quality Supervision published a list that banned the import of numerous sports drinks, juices, teas, jams, glue powders, children's goods and food additives from companies known to be distributing contaminated products.

Foods and drinks from Taiwan were pulled from shelves in Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Nanjing and Shanghai when reports first broke.

Beijing has remained largely unaffected by the scandal, as the Beijing Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau already worked with the Municipal Bureau of Industry and Commerce to inspect supermarkets across the city.

Normal use outside food

A report published by plastemart.com, a top industry portal, said that the competing plasticizers C9 (DINP) and C10 (DIDP) offer better cost and performance benefits than DEHP.

These commodity phthalates are used in flooring, wall coverings, vinyl skins, cable coatings, coated fabrics and shoes.

In July 2005, the EU permanently banned the use of DEHP in all children's articles. Additionally, it banned the use of the related compounds DINP, DIDP and DNOP in children's articles that can be put in the mouth. This ban has been in effect since January 16, 2007.

The restriction on the use of phthalates in Europe pushed other regions to consider reducing the use of these plasticizers, even though most studies showed that phthalates pose little or no health risks to humans or the environment. Canada has also put phthalates on its list of potentially dangerous chemicals.

The report said that China is not only the largest phthalate consumer, but the fastest growing user. Environmental issues are projected to cause demand for DOP and other phthalates to remain flat in North America and to decrease in Western Europe and Japan.

Children most vulnerable

Exposure to DEHP has known adverse effects on human reproduction and health, such as hindering the development of male reproductive organs and causing premature sexual development in females, said Wu Xueyan, an endocrinologist at Peking Union Medical College Hospital.

Adult women can experience gynecological disorders when exposed to DEHP. "The plasticizer mimics estrogen, so if it enters a woman's body, it can cause the release of hormones that may affect the uterus, endometrium and breasts," he said.

"The ingestion of large amounts could cause endometrial polyps or cancer."

DEHP exposure may also reduce fertility. According to a recent study on fertility, women who are exposed to plasticizers at their workplace are more likely to experience fertility problems than women who work under normal conditions.

Lower birth rates have been associated with exposure to plasticizers. It has also been found that women who are affected by plasticizers typically require more than six months of effort to conceive a child.

"The estrogen balance in women's body can get disrupted through exposure to plasticizers, and similarly for men their testosterone balance gets hampered and makes sperm difficult to produce," he said.

By Li Zhixin

A plasticizing agent from Taiwan has become a snowballing crisis for the Southeast Asian food industry.

Since the scandal broke, many people have been switching their dietary habits away from processed drinks and toward fresh juice and purified water.



CFP Photo

Avoid extended use of plastic containers

Plasticizing agents, as environmental hormones, are everywhere in our daily life. They exist in the air, soil and water.

There are more than 500 plasticizers available in the world, though only about 50 to 100 are used for commercial purposes.

About 90 percent of all plasticizers are used in polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and the rest in synthetic rubbers, cellulosic products and acrylics.

Liu Zhaoping, a researcher at Nutrition and Food Security Research Center, China's Center for Disease Control and

Prevention (CCDC), said exposure to plasticizers can occur through inhalation, ingestion or skin contact.

However, trace plasticizing agents in the human body had no significant effect on human health, he said.

According to data from experiments on monkeys, trace plasticizers can be passed out of the body within 24 to 48 hours.

At present, the World Health Organization's provision on the tolerance of daily intake of DEHP is 0.025 milligrams per kilogram. "It means,

if one weighing 60 kilograms absorbs 1.5 to 8.5 milligram of plasticizer during his or her lifetime, the damage would be significant," Liu said.

To avoid toxic plasticizers, people should be watchful when choosing juices, beverages and foods. The best guarantee of safety is to change dietary habits and drink more water than bottled beverages.

Eating out less often was also recommended. "Try not to eat food that has been kept in a plastic container for a long time," Liu said.

Journey into the belly of the Dragon Gorge

By Li Zhixin

Longqingxia, a gorge located in Yanqing District in northeast Beijing, is surrounded by mountains and lakes and filled with historic sites. It's a great place to escape the summer heat.



Longqingxia is also called the Little Three Gorges.



The dock is now open to the public.

Photos provided by Longqingxia

Longqingxia, which translates roughly to "Great Dragon Gorge," is said to be a blessed place. It was an imperial summer resort during the Liao (907-1125), Jin (1125-1234) and Yuan (1206-1368) dynasties.

The 7-kilometer-long canyon, with a water surface elevation of 570 meters, combines aspects of both southern and northern Chinese scenery. It has been dubbed the "Little Three Gorges" and "Little Lijiang River Outside the Great Wall."

The gorge covers 119 square kilometers and is fairly well positioned between Badaling Great Wall to the south, Haitushan Mountain to the west and Songshan Forest Park to the north.

Within the gorge, there is a 70-meter-high dam that was built in 1973 that has created a reservoir. A manmade waterfall is formed during the summer. The dam is the largest in northern China.

The water in the reservoir is very clean and clear, and it provides the city with drinking water. It is perhaps one of the reasons why so many want to visit Longqingxia, given that the environment in Beijing is not always the greatest.

The average temperature at the gorge is 6 C lower than in downtown Beijing during the summer. In the winter,

standing water remains frozen until May.

Every year, the Ice and Snow Festival, held from January to February, displays many beautiful ice lanterns, and the waterfall turns to ice. Other than the festival, though, the gorge is closed to visitors except between April 10 and November 15.

Visitors are recommended to first go to the top of the dam through a huge dragon-shaped hallway that is one of the world's longest series of escalators.

The 258-meter-long escalator leads to the dock, where visitors can take a boat up the river to view the picturesque scenery of the valley.

The valley is filled with different types of cliffs, peaks, rocks and caves, many with interesting and descriptive names. For example, Zhenshan Rulai is a rock that looks like Buddha in profile, Shenbifeng is a stone pillar that looks like a huge writing brush and Zhongshan is a mountain that looks like a huge bell standing in the river.

During the journey, visitors may see thrilling wire-walking performances.

Longqingxia is also an ideal place to do extreme sports such as bungee jumping (150 yuan per person), rock climbing or abseiling (50 yuan per person).

Continued on page 21...



Longqingxia is also an ideal place to do bungee jumping.

Photo by Yuan Yi



Jiguanshan (Phoenix Coronet Island)

Photo provided by nipic.com



Photo by Yuan Yi



The dragon-shaped escalator leads to the dock.



Jingang Temple

Photos provided by Longqingxia

...continued from page 20

Other scenic recommendations:

1. Shenxianyuan (Fairy Temple): This temple is located on a 200-meter-high peak where there are 300-year-old pine trees nearly 25 meters high with diameters of 0.6 meters.

Near the temple, several huge stones look like chessboards. It's said that rubbing the trunk of the tree near the edge of the cliff can cure illnesses, but no one dares to get close because it's too dangerous.

2. Baihuadong (Flowers Cave): The 320-meter-long cave has an exhibition area of more than 3,000 square meters filled with 1,650 kinds of artificial flowers and trees dotted with birds and animals.

3. Yuhuang Peak: This peak is the highest in Longqingxia. A teahouse at the peak offers a wonderful view of the surrounding valley.

4. Jingang Temple: The area around the temple looks like a pen being dipped into water.

5. Zhuqianlu (Minting Coins Stove): The karst cave near Jingang Temple is the place where two brothers made fake money to distribute to the poor during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

6. Jiguanshan (Phoenix Coronet Island): Also known as the Solitary Beauty Peak, the 70-meter-high peak stands surrounded by water and resembles a crouching rooster. It is also an iconic sight of Longqingxia.

Travel Information:

Admission: 40 yuan during summer; 70 yuan during the Ice and Snow Festival

Open: 7:30 am - 4:30 pm, April 10 - November 15, January 1 - end of February (Ice Lantern Festival)

Tel: 6919 1020 / 1422, 6914 3388

Getting there: Take Bus 919 Kuai from Deshengmen to Yangting Bus Station and then transfer to Bus 920 to Longqingxia. Or take a tourist bus from Qianmen (Bus T1), Beijing Railway Station (Bus T2), Dongdaqiao (Bus T3), Beijing Zoo (Bus T4) or Andingmen (Bus T8) to Longqingxia (available on weekends and national holidays from April 7 to October 15)

Restaurants nearby:

Longqingxia Restaurant

Tel: 6919 1032 / 2340

Chuxiuyuan Restaurant

Tel: 6919 1033

Yudushanzhuang Restaurant

Tel: 6919 1058 / 1057

Other valleys around the city:

1. Taoyuan Fairy Valley:

Situated at the foot of Yunmengshan National Forest Park, the Taoyuan Fairy Valley Scenic Area (Taoyuan Xianglu) is located in Shicheng Town, Miyun County

2. Duijiu Valley:

Duijiu Valley, which was formed 130 million years ago, is located in the north of Duijiyu Village, Changling Town, Changping District. It is about 4 kilometers northwest of the well-known Ming Tombs and about 50 kilometers to the north of downtown Beijing.

3. Hudongshui Valley:

The valley, covering an area of 900 hectares, is located in Huangsongyu Village, Pinggu District, and is approximately 90 kilometers from Beijing.

4. Shentang Valley:

Shentang Valley is located in Fangzhuang Village, Huairou District, about 60 kilometers from urban Beijing.

5. Qingliang Valley:

Situated in Shicheng Town, Miyun County, the Qingliang Valley is about 110 kilometers from Beijing. Characterized by dense pools and spectacular waterfalls, this area is filled with water scenery.

6. Tiger Valley:

The Tiger Valley Natural Scenic Area lies northwest of Changping district, about 40 kilometers from downtown Beijing.



Dining



Father's Day celebration at Sunworld Dynasty Hotel

There's no better way to express your appreciation than to take Dad out for a delicious meal and say "I Love You" this Father's Day. Featuring many of Dad's favorites such as delectable seafood — abalones, oysters, crab and lobsters — classic BBQ specialties, sashimi and fine wine, cocktails and fruit juices, Dynasty Plaza promises an enticing dinner buffet of international gourmet cuisine.

Where: Sunworld Dynasty Hotel, 50 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: June 19, 5-10 pm

Price: 298 yuan per person

Tel: 5816 8888



Regent high tea

Come and enjoy Regent's renowned scones with your choice of imported and Chinese teas, freshly-brewed espresso and coffee and other savory pastries.

The high tea package is available daily from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. Come and visit the regent's tranquil Summer Garden, an oasis in the center of one of the largest and busiest cities on earth.

Where: The Regent Beijing, 99 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng District

Cost: 99 yuan per person, includes tea and coffee (15 percent gratuity)

Tel: 8522 1789



White asparagus the royal treat of spring

This spring, Hilton Beijing's award-winning One East restaurant is featuring fresh white aspara-

gus to tantalize your taste buds!

White asparagus is spring's most luxurious ingredient and has long been considered a royal treat. The chef-recommended four-course dinner set selects fresh seasonal white and green asparagus and presents it with exclusive culinary art.

Come savor the fresh and delicate flavor of fresh asparagus and enjoy a royal treat at the One and Only One East.

Where: Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuai Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until July 3

Cost: 428 yuan per person for 4-course dinner (15 percent gratuity)

Tel: 5865 5030



Spanish Feria Sunday Brunch at VIC

This Sunday Brunch buffet is offering traditional Spanish specialties throughout the month.

Where: Sofitel Wanda Beijing, Tower C, Wanda Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Sunday, June 26

Cost: 328 yuan per person with soft drinks and juice; 368 yuan with French wine and foreign beer; 428 yuan with Champagne (15 percent gratuity). Children between the ages of 6 and 12 eat half off; children younger than 6 eat free.

Tel: 8599 6666



Treat dad to One East's Sunday Roast Lunch

Still searching for the perfect Father's Day gift? Come savor this authentic American Roast with your father at One East and show your appreciation! The fabulous three-course set menu features a delightful array of American family favorites with a modern twist, including appetizers, desserts, and unlimited servings of roasted prime rib carved right at your tableside. Add 98 yuan for unlimited wine and beer.

Where: Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuai Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

Cost: 198 yuan per person (15 percent gratuity)

Tel: 5865 5030

Event

Mr. Lego Mindstorms Summer Camp

Kids love building robots and contraptions with Lego(r) MINDSTORMS(r)! This robotics camp gives them two weeks to learn the basics and build robots to accomplish a variety of exciting challenges and missions. No special skills or prior experience are necessary!

Participants will learn engineering, programming, teamwork, critical thinking and problem solving in a fun and enriching environment.

The course is taught by a Cornell University graduate with many years of Lego experience.

Where: My Little Mozart Studio, Room 1008, Building 5, Lishuijiayuan, Liulitun, Chaoyang District

When: June 27 — July 8, 9:30 am — 12:30 pm

Age: 9-12 years old

Tel: Call Kristin at 13522563767 for reservations

Email: kristinkoh@mylittlemozart.com

Event

British Airways unveils value fares for UK-bound students

British Airways announced today that it is offering special student fares from as low as 7,800 yuan to Chinese students bound for the UK before December 31.

Student fares are available for flights between Beijing or Shanghai and seven major UK cities including London, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Newcastle or Jersey. Seats are limited and students are urged to book early.

"British Airways has always tried to offer the best value student fares in the market because we understand the special requirements of young people studying overseas," said Kevin McQuillan, British Airways Regional General Manager, East Asia. "As the number of Chinese students who pursue studies in the UK increases, we want to do what we can to lighten the load for them as they travel for the school term, holidays and visits throughout the year."

Traveling students can carry twice their normally allowed baggage. Each passenger can check in two bags of up to 23 kilograms each for each flight, giving more space for academic and personal supplies. Student fare tickets have the additional flexibility of unlimited date changes and a travel validity of up to 12 months.

Hotel



Summer escapade at the Summit

Indulge in exquisite luxury at China World Summit, which overlooks a magnificent view of the Central Business District's skyline. Spacious accommodations in Summit's guestrooms, the city's largest, average 55 square meters.

The offer includes a stay in an Executive Room and welcome amenities and daily breakfast at Grill 79 on level 79.

Where: China World Summit Wing, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: Until August 31

Cost: from 2,088 yuan per night (15 percent gratuity)

(By Jackie Zhang)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Li Zhixin at lizhixin@ynet.com.

Make my funk the Peter Funk

By He Jianwei

A painting featuring a couplet written by Chinese artist Qi Baishi was auctioned off for 425.5 million yuan at the China Guardian 2011 Spring Auctions in Beijing on May 22.

Titled *Eagle Standing on Pine Tree with Four-character Couplet in Seal Script*, it was Qi's largest work and made in 1946 when he was 86.

Art collector Liu Yiqian bought it for less than 20 million yuan from a private owner in San Francisco in 2005. The starting price this year was 88 million yuan. After 50 bids in half an hour, a young woman won with a bid that showed the value of the painting had increased twentyfold in the last six years.

The auction price was second only to ancient calligrapher Huang Tingjian's (1045-1105) hand scroll *Pillar Ming*, which was sold for 436.8 million yuan in 2009.

Art auctions are parties for tycoons and rarely the topics of conversation between regular people.

But some people have the misfortune of covering auctions as a job. My friend Amy Lee has been on this beat for 10 years. "Usually we do not know who the winning bidder is until after the bidding," she said. "One reason is because some bidders do not like to be exposed in public. But most of the time, it's because they're not present at the auction house."

"So, how does the auction happen without the presence of bidders?" I asked.

"Some bidders send assistants and tell them the highest price they'll agree to pay. Some bid through phones. You'll see a row of staffers answering calls and sometimes raising their hands with auction news."

"Is there any Peter Funk in the auction house?"

"Who is Peter Funk?"

"A by-bidder, who deliberately drives up the bids."

"It is possible in any auction house, but we probably do not know who's doing it. Auctioning is a battle of wits and courage. But by-bidders will be blacklisted if the bidders find them."

"By the way, why did you call this kind of person Peter Funk?"

"It's American slang," I explained. "Peter was a character in Asa Greene's 1834 story *The Perils of Pearl Street*, depicting business life in New York. He was a by-bidder."



Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to lizhixin@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Protect CircumStance begin with me

By Terry Boyd-Zhang

I'm not sure what happened with the translation of this sign.

The first set of characters, *baohu*, means "to protect." The second set of characters, *huanjing*, means "environment." The next character, which looks like two *ren* ("people"), is pronounced *cong* and means "from." As in a question people often ask me, *Cong nali lai de?*, meaning, "Where are you from?"

The third character from the end is *wo*, which means "I" and is one of my favorite characters to write. It has a fun flow to it. Have someone show you how to write it correctly: from top to bottom, left to right.

The second-to-last character is *zuo*, which means "to do," and the last character is *qi*, which means something like "to rise



up" (as in excitement or revolution).

The Chinese is very simple, clear and easy to understand: "Protecting the environment begins with me."

I think the problem with the transla-

tion of this sign, as well as with protecting the environment, is summed up in a sign for a travel agency I saw on the bus today. In English, the advertisement promised customers the "beauty" and "scenery" of China for "cheap."

In my opinion, at a certain point, beauty and cheapness are mutually exclusive. For example, if you go to a cheap translator, you may just get what you paid for: wacky capitalization such as on "Stance" and incorrect grammar — this sign should read "begins."

Note that this is not a "China problem," per se. This is a global problem that will not turn around until we all learn, as the signs at the bus stops say: *Wenming cong wo zuoqi*, or, "Civilized behavior (such as protecting the environment) begins with me."

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week

1. The equestrians would rather you saddle up to go to work.

Professor Zhu Shida (ZSD): I recently had a very interesting discussion with my American friends about this sentence. At first glance, I thought there might be something missing. If you want to be grammatically correct, you would say: The equestrians prefer you to saddle up to go to work. Further scrutiny shows that the sentence is perfectly right: "would" can serve as a verb meaning "hope," "wish." For instance, What would these people? It means, "What would these people wish to do?" I would I were young, I would rather we had dinner now. So, all these examples show that the sample sentence is absolutely correct in its own right. The discussion was very helpful to me.

Terry Boyd-Zhang (TBZ): I understand the usage of "would," but I would that someone explain when I would ever use the sample sentence!

2. At 28 years old

ZSD: As we know, what follows a preposition must be a noun or noun clause. "28 years old" is an adjective. So, it is wrong to say "at 28 years old." You may argue that nowadays it is permissible to use "28 years old" as a noun; for instance, we say "the 28-year-old likes to travel." Yes, what you have said is indeed right as a modern English tendency. But in the case of the sample sentence, I think the rule cannot apply. It is right to say: at the age of 28 or at 28, but definitely not "at 28 years old."

TBZ: I would argue that this is permissible — parenting books are notorious for this — but the ways that the professor has suggested are better.

3. The design emphasizes minimalism and avoiding wasteful production.

ZSD: The error in the sentence arises from carelessness in the process of writing. It is just as the Chinese adage goes: you take care of the head while forgetting the tail. It can be avoided if we are more cautious. The sample sentence should be: The design emphasizes minimalism and avoids wasteful production.

TBZ: I completely agree with the professor on this one — and I see this error a lot. You must keep your verbs in agreement, otherwise the reader will be confused about what is happening in the sentence. The design must be in the simple present or in the present continuous tense, it cannot really be both.

4. When I first heard the film, I was shocked.

ZSD: I think there are some nuances in the sentence we have to pay attention to. When we say "hear," it means we really take sounds through the ears, to listen to or to give ear to, in a word, the physical act of receiving the sound through the ear. So, it is not the case with the film as the writer says here. By adding a very small thing, we will be able to make it perfect: When I first heard of the film, I was shocked. Do you see? So small a thing may make your writing better.

TBZ: Yes, you could also say "heard about" the film. Otherwise you have to use the verb "to see" (saw) because you watch a film with your eyes.



Xu Tong, filmmaker

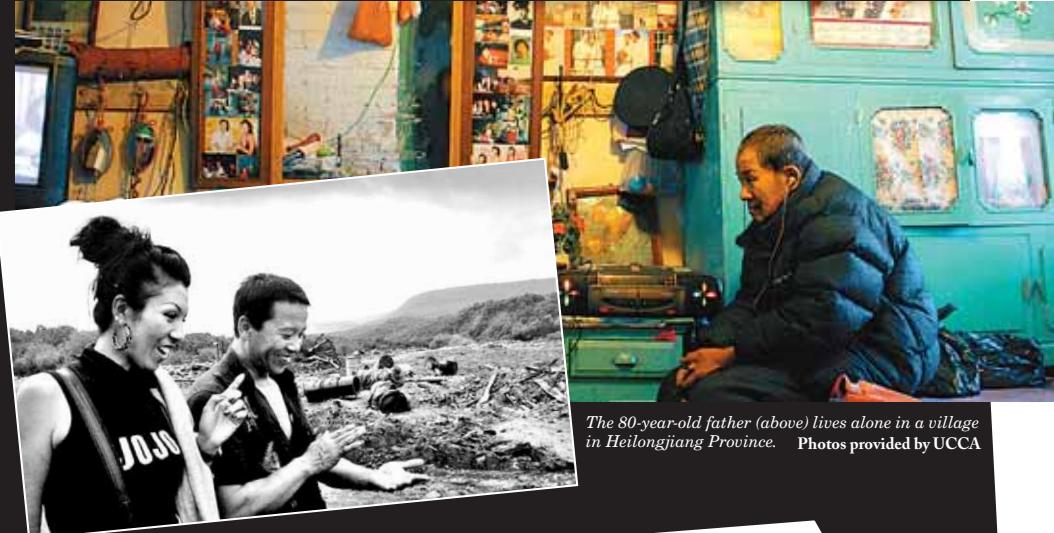
“ The search for a bright future sometimes costs the precious past. ”

Shattered life

Closing chapter in a trilogy of the marginalized

By He Jianwei
Millions of rural workers rush to the city each year to labor for scant wages. Their jobs are characterized as dirty, dangerous and disgraceful.

Director Xu Tong sees these men and women as nomads of the city. His trilogy of films delves into the lives of this mass as its members try to scrape out a life.



The 80-year-old father (above) lives alone in a village in Heilongjiang Province. Photos provided by UCCA

Shattered, the final chapter in Xu Tong's trilogy, tells the story of an 80-year-old father who lives alone in the village and his daughter, the owner of an unsuccessful "massage" business in the big city.

Tang Xiaoyan, the daughter, was introduced in the second part of the trilogy, *Fortune Teller*, as the operator of a beauty salon that offered sex services. In that chapter, Tang was one of many sex workers who sought advice on love and work from a fortune teller living on the outskirts of the capital.

The fortune teller advised Tang that she would need to change her name to improve her business.

Although she changes her name, business remains poor. A crackdown on prostitution results in the closure of her shop and her detriment.

"After filming *Fortune Teller*, I wondered what happened to her. I decided to follow up with her in 2009," Xu said.

Tang was then preparing to return to her hometown in Heilongjiang Province to celebrate Spring Festival with her aged father.

Her brothers and sisters were returning home to prepare for Chinese New Year's Eve, but the yearly reunion ended in a quarrel between Tang's older sisters and their father. Eventually, they depart one by one

and leave the old man to his fate.

During this unpleasant reunion, the father confided in Xu and told him his life story.

"He poured out his tale of the past 80 years – something he seldom talked about with his own children. The old guy had a prodigious memory, and when he found a



listener he was more than happy to unload," the director said.

From World War II to The Great Leap Forward in the late 1950s, from his wife's death to his children's departure, the man's memory was fragmented but followed historical events.

Xu juxtaposes the father's memory and the relationship with his children. "When the father combs his memory, it also helps me sort out the reasons why rural laborers end up drifting. The relationship between the generations has grown fragile," he said.

"If my first two documentaries are my

observation of those people, the final part digs out the reason."

In making the film, Xu learned that like the old man's memories, people's concept of what constitutes good and honest work has been shattered.

Xu lived in the eastern suburbs of Beijing for several years, adjacent to several communities of migrant workers. He got his degree in photo-journalism at Communication University of China in the 1980s, and began to make documentary films in 2007.

"I worked hard to earn money for several decades. When I got to know the people who lived on the edge of society, I decided to pick up my camera again," he said.

The first film of the trilogy, *Wheat Harvest*, sketches the life of sex workers in the city, showing the loyalty and dignity of the men and women who are left with few other career paths.

In *Wheat Harvest*, a young woman from a village in Hebei Province works as a prostitute in a beauty salon to help her poor family and sickly father – her family is unaware of what she does in the big city.

During the wheat harvest, she goes back home to help her parents and leaves all her savings behind when she returns to the beauty salon.

"I feel that [these people's] lives are somehow elsewhere, but never further than an arm's length from our own," he said.



Shattered

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: June 25, 4 pm

Admission: 15 yuan, 10 yuan for students

Tel: 8459 9269